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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-091 *11 May 1995*

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 2 May

NC0805103195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 May edition of the AL-SHA'B Arabic-language newspaper that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Article Describes Police Torture Methods

2. Editor Calls For Nuclear Program

3. Arrest of Muslim Brotherhood Members

4. Mallawi Citizens Said Resentful of Government Forces

5. Brotherhood Proclaims Position on Major Issues

6. Brotherhood Figure on Oklahoma Blast

ARTICLE DESCRIBES POLICE TORTURE METHODS

Page 4 is taken up by a 6,000-word article on police torture in Egypt entitled: "I Can See the Emperor Is Naked." The writer, Dr. Muhammad 'Abbas, addresses his article to the 9th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders meeting in Cairo.

'Abbas says his attitude to the police is not hostile for the sake of hostility but is a position he adopts against their "deviations from their duty." Although he admits that there are some honorable people in the police force, he accuses the police generally of rigging elections, torturing detainees, extracting false confessions, forging evidence, and using trumped-up charges against suspects.

Addressing the Cairo delegates, he says: "I cannot deny that I initially felt shame about exposing our dirty laundry to you, the representatives of the whole world. But I soon realized that the world—the double-faced world—you represent knows everything about what is happening to us. The shame is not in what I tell you now but in your knowing what is happening and remaining silent. We have seen nothing except fire, destruction, and blockades from the United Nations, as if its sanctions are applied to us and its benefits to others. Therefore, despite my shame, but because our rulers believe in you and implement your sanctions faithfully when they are against our people, perhaps they will consider your reaction when we tell you what they do to us."

He quotes the following words from a statement by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO]: "The security agencies in our Arab world free themselves of their legal obligations until they almost turn into a form of armed militias that do not hesitate to perform militia-like actions such as murder, hostage-taking, arbitrary arrests, and torture."

Relying on EHRO and other sources, including a book by a journalist called Ayman Anwar, the writer provides the following list of torture methods used in the country:

"1. Blindfolding and undressing detainees.

"2. Hanging suspects by their arms and tying them to a device that gives them a beating on the soles of their feet.

"3. Beatings with truncheons and electrical cords.

"4. Whipping with a lash or sticks made of bound and twisted leather.

"5. Forcing the victim to stand naked for a long time.

"6. Pouring cold water on the victim's head.

"7. Extinguishing lighted cigarettes on the suspect's body.

"8. Applying electrical shocks.

"9. Kicking with the feet and hitting with the fist.

"10. Setting rabid dogs on the prisoners.

"11. Forcing the victim to sit on a pointed object.

"12. Depriving prisoners of food and medicine.

"13. Throwing prisoners into sewage water.

"14. Threatening to rape a suspect or his family members.

"15. Letting the victim hear the screaming and wailing of other victims under torture to intimidate him.

"16. Binding the ankles and wrists from behind in a way that turns the victim into a ball.

"17. Pulling out a suspect's fingernails and dragging him on the ground.

"18. Making a suspect sleep on the floor without cover and then flooding his cell with sewage water.

"19. Using sharp instruments like knives and glass splinters to cause injury.

"20. Branding with hot irons.

"21. Terrorizing victims with live snakes and forcing them to kiss the genitals of the torturing officer."

He urges writers and intellectuals to speak out about this issue and tell President Mubarak about it, noting that the

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president is willing to listen to other viewpoints if they are brought before him by people not in the opposition.

He accuses the official media of lying and says those who tell the truth are punished. He recalls remarks made by [Labor Party Secretary General] 'Adil Husayn that anyone who protests the rigging of the elections or speaks out against corruption is declared by the official media to be a terrorist.

Concerning the clashes between security forces and people described as "terrorists," the writer says: "Even if they are criminals, they must be punished according to the law, not through the ridiculous and disgusting claim that they always begin firing on the authorities and the authorities fire back and kill them."

He cites a comment by the newspaper AL-AHALI, which, despite being "an inflexible enemy of the Islamic groups," refers to "strong rumors that after arresting their victims and interrogating and torturing them for days or weeks, the police transport them in handcuffs to sugar plantations and shoot them."

He cites journalist Muhammad al-Sayyid Sa'id, a writer "classified as a communist by the security forces, not as a sympathizer of the Islamic groups," as saying: "The conflict is no longer between the state and terrorism, but between two armed groups both of which lack legality."

The writer promises more on this issue in a forthcoming AL-SHA'B edition.

The article is accompanied by several pencil drawings showing suspects being tortured.

EDITOR CALLS FOR NUCLEAR PROGRAM

A 3,000-word article by Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn on page 2 favors staying within the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] but calls for developing a peaceful Egyptian nuclear program. The headline reads: "The Vote on the Nonproliferation Treaty Approaches: Limiting Oneself to a Merely Verbal Hardline Position Will Lead the Country to Ruin."

Husayn ridicules the government's initial hardline stance on the NPT's extension and notes that it was meaningless to adopt such a position unless the government was willing to withdraw from the Treaty if Israel refused to join. He says: "By the way, we are not urging you to withdraw from the NPT but call on you to build an Egyptian nuclear program. I believe our remaining a signatory facilitates this."

The writer points out that Egyptian rulers, apart from a short period during 'Abd-al-Nasir's rule, never took the issue of developing a nuclear program seriously and kept moving responsibility for nuclear energy from one government ministry to the other.

In a 150-word box within the main article, the writer says he thinks it is likely Egypt will remain within the NPT on the grounds that "the Treaty permits the possession of a peaceful nuclear program for energy production, water desalination, and other civilian purposes."

He recounts that when one nuclear country offered to help Egypt develop its own nuclear program, the Egyptian minister who was approached with this offer told the official from the nuclear country: "Please let us stay away from this hornet's nest."

Husayn comments: "After all the years we have wasted, we are inside the Israeli nuclear hornet's nest and we are powerless."

ARREST OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS

A 150-word item on page 1 reports the arrest and 15-day remand of 11 Muslim Brotherhood members "last Saturday" [29 April]. The report says that two other people have been summoned for interrogation. The report says that the Prosecutor's Office charged the detainees with "reviving the activity of the Muslim Brotherhood and exploiting the approaching date of the Consultative Council elections and the 'Id al-Adha feast prayers to preach to the citizens." This news was reported earlier by Cairo MENA in Arabic and filed as nc30014200295.

MALLAWI CITIZENS SAID RESENTFUL OF GOVERNMENT FORCES

A 1,000-word report on page 7 describes the continuing security unrest in al-Minya Governorate's Mallawi District. The report bears the headline: "In Mallawi: Demonstrations, Resentment, and Rejection of Elections Amid Armored Vehicles."

The writer, Ahmad Mahjub, says that after the security forces killed Ahmad 'Ayid Ibrahim, a comrade of Bashir Kamal, leader of the Islamic Group's military wing in Mallawi, hundreds of people demonstrated against the government, the ruling party, and the security forces.

The report quotes Shaykh Mustafa Hammad, Labor Party secretary in al-Minya, criticizing the behavior and "excesses" of the security forces, their "killing of innocent people and using trumped-up charges against others."

The report says the people resent the continuing presence of security forces in their district and believe that if they leave the area, it will quiet down.

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BROTHERHOOD PROCLAIMS POSITION ON MAJOR ISSUES

A 2,000-word "statement to the public" by the Muslim Brotherhood appears on page 6, detailing the group's position on current issues. The text of this article can be found in the 10 May edition of the Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 1.

BROTHERHOOD FIGURE ON OKLAHOMA BLAST

Ahmad al-Malat, one of two Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guides, comments on the Oklahoma City Bombing and addresses U.S. President Clinton in a 2,000-word article on page 5. Excerpts of the article can be found in the 10 May edition of the Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 4.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 5 May

NC0905192595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 May edition of the AL-SHA'B Arabic-language newspaper that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Police Storm Engineers Union Headquarters

2. Seminar Calls for Obtaining Nuclear Capability

3. Labor Party Official Criticizes Policy on Terrorism

4. Labor Party Member Notes Campaign on Trade Unions

5. Remand of 11 Suspects in Muslim Brotherhood Case Extended

6. France's Stand on Islam Criticized

7. Lebanese Academician Views 'Nationalist, Islamic Trends'

POLICE STORM ENGINEERS UNION HEADQUARTERS

In reports on pages 1 and 3, correspondents Khalid Yunis and 'Abd-al-Hay Muhammad collaborate on two reports, totaling 2,400 words, on a police raid on the Engineers Union building in Cairo on an unspecified date. One report says: "In a flagrant new aggression against trade union and democratic freedoms, the security forces stormed the Engineers Union building, seized all its contents, and expelled members of the union's Higher Council, who represent the union's legitimate authority and who are elected from the grassroots engineers."

The report adds that the union issued a statement "exposing the plot" against it and asserting that all illegal measures taken against it are invalid.

SEMINAR CALLS FOR OBTAINING NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

A 130-word report on page 1 by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid says that a seminar was held at the Scientists Union with the theme "Arab Nuclear Capabilities and Ways to Develop Them". The seminar called on the Egyptian Government to enter the nuclear age in cooperation with countries "that allow us to do so, such as India, Canada, and others".

Speakers at the seminar, organized by the Chemistry Branch of the Scientific Professions Union, "asserted the need for Egypt to have a nuclear capability, noting that its ingredients, such as uranium ore, heavy water, equipment, and spare parts as well as scientists and expertise are available in Egypt."

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL CRITICIZES POLICY ON TERRORISM

In a 4,500-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn criticizes the Government's performance, economic reform, state of poverty, and "corruption".

Toward the end of his article, Husayn says: "I recall that before his May Day speech, President Mubarak addressed the UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime. We noticed that the Government insists on confusing criminal offenses and political crimes. The Government seeks to compare drug gangs with political terrorism. This is unreasonable and unjustifiable." He adds: "This shows the Government stand is supportive of the United States and Israel in their war against Muslims and those who resist the occupation of their land. This requires an explanation, but I say now: Efforts to counter domestic terrorism will not succeed unless they are based on democratic reforms."

Husayn notes that no matter how much oppression is used and no matter what the security agencies do, violence will not end as long its causes continue. He says: "The youths tend to use armed force basically because ways of peaceful reform are blocked. If the Government insists on rigging the general elections it will be the primary instigator of terrorism."

REMAND OF 11 SUSPECTS IN MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CASE EXTENDED

An 80-word report on page 6 says that the Higher State Security Prosecution has decided to extend for 15 days the custody of 11 suspects accused of belonging to the

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Muslim Brotherhood and of running an illegal party organization.

FRANCE'S STAND ON ISLAM CRITICIZED

A 270-word comment on page 7 by Hibah Sa'd-al-Din says France recently banned a religious book authored by Muslim scholar Shaykh Yusuf al-Qardawi "because the French authorities regard it as hostile to the West and its values." The writer says: "Liberal France has revealed its hostility by banning the hijab [Muslim women's head scarf] in schools and by leveling charges against Muslims residing in France and socially persecuting them if they do not submit to its economic and military policy in the region and its policy on Algeria."

LEBANESE ACADEMICIAN VIEWS 'NATIONALIST, ISLAMIC TRENDS'

On page 9 AL-SHA'B carries a 1,700-word interview with Dr. Khayr-al-Din Hasib, director of the Arab Unity Studies Center in Beirut and chief editor of the AL-MUSTAQBAL AL-'ARABI magazine.

Answering a question on the factors that could bring the "nationalist and Islamic trends" together, he says: "We believe there are many things that combine the two trends and that there are marginal conflicts between them that weaken them both."

He adds: "The dangers currently threatening the Arab world, whether Zionism or Western hegemony, also threaten the two trends. Neither trend can stand on its own against these threats."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 2 May

NC0705210495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 May edition of the 'AQIDATI Arabic-language newspaper that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Islamic Thinker Criticizes France for Confiscating Book

2. Egyptian Ulema Urged To End Tension Between PA, Islamists

3. Islamic Universities League's Discussions Noted

4. Columnist Views UN Court Verdict Against Karadzic

ISLAMIC THINKER CRITICIZES FRANCE FOR CONFISCATING BOOK

A 100-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that Islamic thinker Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi has criticized French authorities for confiscating his book which deals with what is allowed and what is prohibited in Islam. He said that the French authorities' claim that the book would lead to general chaos because of its hostile tone to the West and to French values is ridiculous, false, and unacceptable. He argues that the book was published 37 years ago and deals with Muslim behavior in public and private life.

Commenting on the same theme in his regular back-page 600-word column "A Call to Reason," chief editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf notes the French interior minister's decision a few days ago banning the book of prominent Islamic preacher Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi on grounds that it might cause general confusion as a result of its hostile attitude to the West and to French values. He states that this "racist" decision is an addition to a series of hostile decisions to Islam and Muslims in France made in the past few years. He says these measures conceal racism and hostility to Islam under the slogan of confronting terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism that threatens Western civilization. Noting that the French Revolution was the mentor of the values of freedom, brotherhood, and equality, he says that the French authorities now "disavow these very values." He says that France has recently triggered several crises over wearing the veil by Muslim schoolgirls, expulsion of Muslim workers despite their economic and social importance, and interference in Algerian domestic affairs. He argues that the book was published 37 years ago and no one has ever heard that it caused a crisis anywhere, stressing that it does not offend non-Muslims.

EGYPTIAN ULEMA URGED TO END TENSION BETWEEN PA, ISLAMISTS

A 130-word report on page 1 by Mustafa Yasin notes that Dr. Hamzah Mustafa, professor of the Islamic studies at the University of Jerusalem and member of the Higher Islamic Commission in Palestine, has praised Egypt's important role in confronting Islam's enemies and detractors. In an exclusive statement to 'AQIDATI, he declared that the Palestinian people convey a message to the Egyptian people and their enlightened Islamic thinkers and writers exhorting them to serve as bridges between the "Palestinian Authority and the Islamic trends in Palestine to pacify tempers, heal the rift, bridge the gap, and alleviate tension between them." He says that the Palestinian people realize the great, major role that Egypt's Islamic thinkers play in guiding and instructing the Muslim nation.

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ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES LEAGUE'S DISCUSSIONS NOTED

A 650-word report by Jamal Salim on page 2 elaborates on the meetings of the Islamic Universities League in Cairo. He notes that the conferees criticized the universities in the Arab and Islamic world for ignoring instruction of Islamic culture, which furthers the graduation of youths who become either more hostile to Islam or lacking in Islamic knowledge. They called for increasing scholarships to the sons of the Islamic minorities and peoples, particularly in the former Soviet republics, to enrich their knowledge of Islam. They emphasized the necessity to prepare an Islamic cultural plan to serve as an alternative to our nation's "subservience" to the West. They agreed to form committees to respond to the suspicions raised by the enemies of Islam to slander it. They called for standardizing Islamic curricula and for preparing research to build unified Islamic thinking capable of confronting the economic, political, and cultural challenges facing the Islamic world, currently the "target of a fierce Western campaign." Al-Azhar University vice president Dr. Ja'far 'Abd-al- Salam says we are living in an age of political and economic cartels seeking to exploit the world's resources for their own interests. This requires that Muslims form an Islamic bloc to protect the nation's interests from these cartels.

COLUMNIST VIEWS UN COURT VERDICT AGAINST KARADZIC

In a 300-word column on page 20, 'Adil Dayf notes the UN international court's conviction of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic as a war criminal. He wonders what steps the United Nations will take against him in view of the crimes he has committed against the Muslims in Bosnia. He claims that the "bitter fact" is that "no measures" will be taken against the Serb executioners because the crimes they committed were "against Muslims and not against non-Muslims." He urges the Islamic world to demand that Karadzic and all Serb criminals be tried and boycotted by the whole world. He says that since the Security Council has punished all the Libyan people because of two suspects in the crash of two planes, why it does not move to punish the Serbs for the unprecedented crimes they committed against the Bosnian Muslims. He says we must not expect the Security Council to take any action but we must demand that the Islamic countries request a meeting of the Security Council to impose sanctions on the Serbs.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas, Jihad To Renew Attacks After 'Id al-Adha

TA1105064195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Exactly one year has passed since the inception of Palestinian autonomy, but no celebrations are planned there to mark the anniversary. On the contrary, the Palestinian opposition is using the occasion to criticize the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad sources say that the terrorist attacks against Israel will resume immediately after 'Id al-Adha. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] A year has passed since the PA entered the autonomous areas, but PA officials have refrained from marking the anniversary in light of the deadlock in the political process and the residents' dire economic plight resulting from the closure. The Palestinian opposition groups naturally seek to highlight the PA's failings.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas leaders in Gaza, said that the PA has failed in the negotiations with Israel. It has inflated its security mechanisms, exacerbated internal rifts by suppressing the opposition, and spoiled relations between the Palestinian people and the PA. The economic situation has deteriorated, al-Zahhar said, and bureaucratic corruption is rife. Shaykh Harb Jabir, one of the Hamas leaders in Jericho, asserts that while the PA demands that the citizens uphold the law, its own men drive around in stolen cars and its security services fight among themselves. Hamas is calling on the PA to renew the struggle against Israel. Sources in the Hamas said that the organization will resume terrorist attacks immediately after 'Id al-Adha. The temporary halt in terrorist attacks, they explain, came in order to permit the release of prisoners over the holiday from PA and Israeli jails.

Islamic Jihad sources have denied that there was any agreement with the PA on stopping terrorist attacks. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the leader of the Islamic Jihad in Damascus, ordered his followers in Gaza to reject 'Arafat's demand to stop terrorist attacks from within the autonomous areas.

The extension granted by the PA to residents of the autonomous areas in order to register their firearms expires today. Official institutions are closed over the holiday, and it will only become clear at the end of the week whether the PA intends to take any steps against those in possession of unlicensed weapons. Only a few residents took advantage of the extension in order to register their weapons with the PA.

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'Urayqat Views Israeli Land Seizure, U.S. 'Bias'

JN1005144595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 May 95

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi, from the "With the Midday Events" program; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has suggested expropriating lands between the French hill and (Pisget Ze'ev) in northern Jerusalem so as to set up a neighborhood for the Arab residents. What is your comment?

['Urayqat] The basic issue is that eastern Jerusalem is territory occupied in 1967. Therefore, the issue does not concern several donums here or there. Israel has agreed to discuss the final status of this region in negotiations scheduled to begin within a year, namely, the final status talks. Therefore, Israel should not take any unilateral measure, under any pretext—seizure of land, activating the 1934 laws on ownership of private property, or others. The issue does not concern a quarter here, a house there, or a settlement. What is needed now is that no party should take unilateral steps that could prejudice the final status talks. Arab residents in Jerusalem are the sons of the Palestinian people. They are not a minority. They should not be dealt with according to civil or housing rights. We all know of the harassment of the Arab residents of Jerusalem of 1967. We all watch on television the demolition of unlicensed homes; we all know how difficult it is for any Arab citizen to get a license; we all know the facts Israel is trying to create on the ground by force. Therefore, we ask the Israeli Government to honor the agreements it has signed. These agreements state that the status of Jerusalem will be discussed in the final status talks. The Israeli side should not take any measures or create facts on the ground that could prejudice the status of Jerusalem or create a situation whereby there will be no negotiations over Jerusalem in a year or two. This is what we want. This is what we told Foreign Minister Peres in Cairo. And this is what we say now.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Urayqat, does the Palestinian side pin any hopes on the Security Council session tomorrow in New York?

['Urayqat] As a matter of fact, the issue should be discussed at the Security Council since it is the party authorized to discuss such issues. The Security Council was informed of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement. It adopted it as an official document. Therefore, if the United States decides to pursue its blind bias toward Israel and defend all of Israel's mistakes and practices, then I believe the peace process will be in a very vulnerable position. The Security Council is the frame of reference. The negotiations are in danger. The peace process is in danger. Israeli violations make the peace process lose much of its credibility. Therefore, we hope the Security Council will adopt clear and firm resolutions to make Israel honor the agreements it has signed.

[Mu'addi] Has the Palestinian leadership considered the possibility of suspending the peace talks if Israel does not reverse its expropriation decision?

['Urayqat] Let me say that what is required now is halting the Israeli practices, settlement activity, and the expropriation of lands. We want the peace process to succeed. We want to implement what has been agreed on as soon as possible. If Israel continues to expropriate land and pursue settlement activity, then we have said that Israel should make a decision. It either chooses settlement activity or peace. It cannot choose both. Therefore, if Israel's current policy continues, I think the question not only relates to stopping the negotiations, but has to do with a collapse in the peace process on all tracks.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, official in charge of local government in the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much. Happy 'Id.

['Urayqat] Same to you.

Qaddumi Blames U.S., Israel for Peace 'Setbacks'

MM0905160295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 95 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are you still calling for the abrogation of the Oslo agreement?

[Qaddumi] I never call for the abrogation of the Oslo [agreement]. I said I had reservations about it.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Would suspension of the negotiations be a sufficient answer to the Israeli violations?

[Qaddumi] That depends. If Israel continued the measures which contravene the basis on which the settlement and various agreements were based, then Israel would bear the responsibility for the discontinuation and collapse of the peace process.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your comment on Morocco's moves and the messages addressed to

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the U.S. President, the Israeli prime minister, and the Security Council?

[Qaddumi] We urge all Arab kings and leaders to move in that direction to put pressure on the international community and on the Security Council members to stop this deterioration in the peace process.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is there a Palestinian plan to intensify contacts to generate public opinion support for the Palestinian position on the issue of Jerusalem?

[Qaddumi] That is a fundamental issue and we are active at all international, Arab, and Islamic levels to mobilize public opinion support for Palestinian rights and to show that Israel is neither interested in nor ready for peace because its social and economic infrastructures are still in contrast with the peace process, particularly as it adamantly refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty so that, as its officials say, it will continue to possess the deterrent weapons and means which threaten the Arab states.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is any particular Arab state going to make the international contacts?

[Qaddumi] The Arab League secretary general will make these contacts.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you see a link between the timing of the [land] confiscation and the talks on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty?

[Qaddumi] Yes, there is a direct link.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What would be the use of a Security Council resolution condemning Israel, which has not complied with past resolutions?

[Qaddumi] That is true, but more such resolutions would persuade the international community to take a decisive measure in the end in the form of sanctions against Israel as was the case with South Africa. If the international community, and especially the United States and Europe, are convinced that the peace process is in jeopardy then they must bear the responsibility and must impose sanctions against Israel to deter it.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe the United States would side with the Arabs.

[Qaddumi] I do not believe so at this stage with the approach of U.S. elections and the preoccupation with election and other issues. Regrettably, it is not making the necessary efforts in support of the peace process. That is one of the reasons for the many setbacks in the peace process; in addition, of course, to the Israeli measures taken in violation of the very basis of the peace process.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Could the normalization card be used to put pressure on Israel?

[Qaddumi] We have put forward a recommendation that the Arab states participating in the multilateral negotiations should reconsider their participation in these negotiations, because Israel's aim is to join the region politically and economically and should, therefore, be denied that participation.

Islamic Jihad Official on Jerusalem, U.S. Role

NC1005195095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 May 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-'Idan] Shim'on Peres has announced that new land in East Jerusalem is also liable to be confiscated. What is your comment on these Zionist claims?

[Al-Shiqaqi] First of all, I do not see anything new in this because the Israelis have been saying for a long time that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the state of Israel. They asserted this intention when they signed the Oslo Accord taking advantage of the official-level Palestinian and Arab weakness and the U.S. support for them.

It is not unusual that Shim'on Peres should assert this stand and the confiscation of Arab land while the Republican representative in the U.S. Congress requests legislation on Jerusalem as the capital of Israel where the U.S. Embassy should be moved.

[Al-'Idan] What is your comment on this U.S. plan?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We emphasize that the U.S. Administration only sees through the Israeli and Zionist eye. Any resolution concerning what they call the Middle East or the Palestinian issue and even concerning Islam in the world is cooked in Israel and passed taking Israel's and the Jewish lobby's view into consideration.

This U.S. stand confirms that the United States today is (?run) by Israel in this respect. In the past we used to say Israel was the 51st state and today we can say it is the state that leads America. Regrettably, it leads the United States toward further conflict with nations and peoples and eventually toward a black fate.

[Al-'Idan] Regarding Robert Dole, the United States asserts that it will refrain from approving or adopting any resolution on Jerusalem at the United Nations,

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despite the weakness of UN resolutions. What does this U.S. stand mean at this particular time?

[Al-Shiqaqi] This means that the U.S. stand is completely identical with the Israeli stand. Any talk about the United States as intermediary between Israel and the Arabs or between Israel and the Palestinians is not possible. The United States represents the Israeli side itself. More than 50 UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue have been blocked and no one dares to discuss them while the United States imposes on the United Nations resolutions to blockade the Arab and Islamic nation. The United States even goes beyond the United Nations to pass unjust resolutions, such as the latest one imposing a trade embargo on Iran.

Muslims and the entire world must realize today that Israel and the United States are in full agreement and that there is no dispute between them. When the United States prevents the discussion of land confiscation at the United Nations, it is defending itself because it is the United States itself that is confiscating this land.

[Al-'Idan] Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, the LOS ANGELES TIMES claimed that those who carried out the recent jihad operations that left many Zionists dead are affiliated with Iran and that they were trained in Iran. What is your comment on this claim?

[Al-Shiqaqi] First of all, those who executed the jihad operations have never left occupied Palestine. They were trained inside occupied Palestine. Furthermore, the planning of the military operations was conducted inside occupied Palestine. They [Americans] do not want any Arab or Islamic side or country to sympathize with the Palestinian people's cause. The Islamic Republic has often reiterated its support for the issues of the Muslims and the legitimate causes of nations, foremost among which is the Palestinian cause. The Islamic Republic rejects this unfair and repressive peace. They seek to punish Iran because of its political stance and, therefore, they make claims and issue repressive resolutions against it. They have no proof that the mujahidin were trained in Iran. Again, I stress that the mujahidin were trained inside occupied Palestine.

[Al-'Idan] Dr. al-Shiqaqi, Zionist press sources have affirmed that there have been several suicidal attempts among the Zionist forces' personnel. How do you view this reality?

[Al-Shiqaqi] You mean they commit suicide?

[Al-'Idan] Yes.

[Al-Shiqaqi] This is not new. There have always been such cases among the Zionist troops whenever our intifadah and resistance become more intense. They commit suicide because their ethical and psychological conditions deteriorate and they suffer from frustration. The families of the soldiers say that upon their return from their service camps in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and south Lebanon, the soldiers' behavior is completely changed and they are tense and restless.

[Al-'Idan] What is your information about the internal situation on the occasion of this blessed day?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Regrettably, the Palestinian Authority continues to detain the mujahidin without trial. The trials that took place were even worse because our mujahidin were innocent and their only crime was their call for continuing the jihad against the Zionist enemy. Whatever the Palestinian says in Gaza is considered a charge. The Palestinian must get rid of this to obtain a good conduct certificate from the authority. There is a state of extreme resentment in the West Bank due to the confiscation of land in Jerusalem. There is a state of indignation in Hebron. The intifadah continues and the jihad operations, in my assessment, will continue.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you, Dr. al-Shiqaqi.

[Al-Shiqaqi] You are welcome, and happy 'Id al-Adha.

Editorial: U.S. Embassy Move Could 'Derail' Peace

TA1005155495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 May 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Moves Harmful to Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The voices that have risen in the U.S. Senate demanding the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and which are pressuring the U.S. Administration to endorse legislation to make this move by 1999 might not realize that this move, the aim of which is reaping political gains in the U.S. domestic arena, could totally derail the peace process and restore the same tense situation in the region that prevailed prior to the launching of the peace process.

It is natural for the Palestinians, the Arabs, and anyone concerned about the cause of a just peace in this region to question the surprising coincidence between Israel's expropriation moves in Arab Jerusalem on the one hand and, on the other, the move by the U.S. Senate Republican majority to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. Is this just a coincidence, or is there some kind of coordination between parties that are not interested in the continuity of the peace process? Some of these parties are Israeli right-wing and extremist, while others are from the pressure forces within the U.S. political corridors. These forces are trying to appease Israel at any cost in a bid to attract Jewish votes to the opposition Republican Party with

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the approach of the U.S. presidential elections, slated for next year.

The issue of Jerusalem must basically be viewed through the inalienable Palestinian rights to it. This is the premise on which the Palestinian side's view of this issue is based. What actually causes amazement, however, is the timing of the move in the U.S. Congress and the aim it is seeking to achieve by embarrassing the U.S. Administration, which is not only playing the role of a real partner in the peace process but is also its sponsor. What impression will the Palestinians and the other parties interested in peace have of the credibility and honesty of the U.S. role if a draft bill encouraging the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is passed? Perhaps a negative answer to this question reflects scorn for the peace process by the initiators of this bill and their attempt to turn this process into a tool for political tactics and domestic U.S. partisan struggle.

In the face of these facts, all forces inside and outside the United States that support a just peace should collaborate to put an end to these tendencies which can only inflict the greatest harm to the peace process and enhance extremist parties that are trying with all their might to halt this process. Several statements have been made, whether in the United States or in Israel itself, questioning the intentions of the parties that have raised the issue of transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The statements also analyzed the negative repercussions of the approval of this issue and the perils that will befall the current peace talks or those slated to be held later over a final settlement and the future of Jerusalem. The important thing is that these statements should be effective and influential in order to contain those moves and limit their damage and negative consequences.

Negotiator Questions Next Meeting With Israelis

JN1005143895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, member of the [Palestinian] negotiating delegation, has said the Palestinian side is waiting for an Israeli response about the purpose of the scheduled meeting between Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file [in the Palestinian Authority], and Israeli Minister of Police Moshe Shahal. Abu-Ziyad pointed out that the Palestinian side is not ready to hold meetings for the sake of dialogue without reaching positive results.

Al-Husayni is due to meet with Shahal on Sunday [14 May] to discuss Israel's confiscation of Palestinian lands in the occupied city of Jerusalem.

Deadline for Turning in Gaza Weapons Extended

JN1105114795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn announced today that the Palestinian Authority has extended until Sunday [14 May] the deadline it has set for turning in weapons in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement to AFP, he added that as of Monday [15 May], any citizen found in possession of weapons will be prosecuted. Arms bearers will be handed down prison terms ranging from six months to seven years.

Lack of Funds Forces Closure of PLO Tokyo Mission

TA0905140795 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 8 May 95 p 16

[Report by Rashid Khashanah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis — Sources in the PLO Political Department have said that the Palestinian legation in Tokyo was closed after the department failed to pay the rent for the offices that the legation occupied in the center of the Japanese capital.

The sources noted that Mr. Bakr 'Abd-al-Mun'im, the head of the legation, left Tokyo for Canada where he will work in the future. The Palestinian diplomat used to receive his salary from the Arab League office in Japan, but the League closed down its office recently and the PLO could not pay his salary.

The sources added that 'Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah, director general of the PLO Political Department, summoned the Japanese ambassador in Tunis and asked him whether it would be possible for the Japanese Government to pay the rent for the Palestinian legation's offices in Tokyo, just as authorities in some European capitals have done. The Japanese Government's response, however, was negative, noting that Japan provides assistance only to the Palestinian Authority, not to the PLO. Palestinian sources in Tokyo believe that the crisis experienced by PLO offices in capitals not belonging to major powers reflects the rapid retreat of the PLO's political and diplomatic presence in the international arena.

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Algeria

GIA Claims Ghardaia Deaths, Warns FIS Leaders

MM1005113595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Armed Group Threatens Salvation Front Officials and Abassi Madani's Children"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Two statements issued by the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] yesterday claimed responsibility for the operation in which five foreigners were killed in Ghardaia (south of Algiers) last week. It also sent warnings to a large number of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] officials and the family of FIS leader Shaykh Abassi Madani.

However, Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission [abroad], who is also affected by these warnings, told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that these two statements "are untrue and baseless." It was difficult to know the reactions of the other FIS officials affected by these warnings.

The GIA has on several previous occasions issued warnings to FIS officials. But the statement AL-HAYAH received yesterday was distinct in that it gave eight FIS leaders a month to stop making statements on the "jihad." The warning, signed by GIA amir Abou Abderrahmane Amin, included Hocine Sulemani (an FIS official working in Algeria), Abdelbaki Sahraoui (a mosque imam in Paris and an FIS founder), Rabah Kebir (head of the FIS Executive Committee abroad), Anouar Haddam (head of the Parliamentary Mission abroad), Moussa Krouche (spokesman for the Algerian Fraternity Association in France), and the "children of Abassi" Madani. The statement did not name Abassi Madani's children concerned. It is known that he has three children: Okba (inside Algeria) and Soleman and Ikbal (in Germany).

Addressing the figures in question, the statement said: "Oh you who are drowned in your delusions, the Group urges you for the last time to hold fast to the rope which God has extended to you and to join its ranks. It gives you a month as of the date of this statement to contact it to confirm your compliance with the following:

"1. Not to make any statement on the jihad and the mujahidin in Algeria.

"2. Not to hold any meeting in the name of the jihad and the mujahidin with any official Muslim or atheist quarter inside or outside the country.

"3. If the Group is not contacted within that period, it will issue its orders concerning you." The statement is dated 4 May.

Other statements signed by the GIA amir have in the past threatened FIS officials without naming them. Maybe the most serious statement was the one issued two month ago, in which he threatened to declare war on the "Islamic Salvation Army" [AIS]. Reports arriving from Algeria point to tension — and sometimes clashes — between the GIA and the AIS. But the AIS has maintained that the matter is limited to "skirmishes."

The GIA rejects any solution to the crisis through an agreement with the Algerian regime, which it describes as "infidel." As for the FIS, it has on several occasions announced that it urges a negotiated peaceful solution. This point of disagreement (the way to resolve the crisis) has been the object of heated debates between the two parties' supporters.

AL-HAYAH asked Anouar Haddam yesterday about the warning addressed to him. He said: "That statement is false and baseless." Asked how he could ascertain that the warning statement is false, he said: "The official sources (GIA mouthpieces) are the 'loyalty' radio and 'Al-Munqidh' television. And a number of weekly bulletins are issued by the GIA, such as AL- RAYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH and AL-I'TISAM. Anything issued outside Algeria cannot be considered true." Haddam cited a statement which AL-HAYAH published some time ago, which said that the GIA's relationship with AL-ANSAR does not go beyond its publishing statements issued by the GIA. He said, "we support the jihad in Algeria. We also support the mujahidin's unity. We do not support any action that weakens them and disunites their ranks." He denied that he said in a statement in Khartoum that the AIS does not exist in reality. "This army exists, and it cannot be denied." He said that all he had said was that he had nothing to do with this army.

Another FIS official in Europe has declined to comment on the statement issued by the GIA, preferring to wait until it is authenticated.

AL-HAYAH has received another statement signed by the "GIA amir," claiming responsibility for the operation in which five foreigners were killed in Ghardaia last week. It pointed out that the operation in which the five were killed "has brought honor for you, men of the GIA in Ghardaia in particular." And it pledges to fight "apostates, Jews, Christians, atheists, informers, rebels, and oppressors." Addressing "de Gaulle's sons," it said that the GIA "will slaughter you in the air and the sea and on hills and in the desert... you will one day — not too far off — embrace Islam, pay jizyah [head tax on free non-Muslims under Muslim rule], or else you will be killed. The armored vehicles, fortresses, curfews, and prohibited zones will not help you." As is known,

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the five were killed in an area which no one can enter except with a special permit.

The GIA statement cannot be authenticated on the same day. The two statements AL-HAYAH received yesterday differ from other statements in that the name "Dar al-Ansar" was put in the place indicating the issuing quarter. As is known, the bulletin AL-ANSAR, published in Europe, carries statements every week issued by the GIA in Algeria.

More Than 22,000 March Against Violence in Ghardaia

LD1005123295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] People have taken to the streets of Ghardaia in droves. More than 22,000 people from various towns in the region, including towns from neighboring provinces such as Laghouat and Ouargla, took part in a march yesterday [9 May].

During this march, people showed clearly that they are against fundamentalist violence and in favor of a democratic society.

The march was staged in reaction to the killing of one Algerian and five foreign nationals — one Tunisian, two French nationals, one Englishman, and one Canadian — in the industrial zone of (Bounoura), near Ghardaia, last Friday [5 May].

Egypt

Foreign Minister on Security Council Session, NPT

NC1005135995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that he asked Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, head of Egypt's permanent delegation at the United Nations, to follow up on the proposal to convene a Security Council session on implementing the Arab League Council's latest resolution to discuss Israeli measures in Jerusalem. Musa added that Egypt's delegation will state Egypt's firm position on these illegal measures in Jerusalem.

Musa also said that, upon the one-day postponement of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] vote, the Arab group proposed a draft resolution on the need for Israel to join the treaty. He added that the draft resolution represents a unified, collective Arab position on the issue. Negotiations are still taking place between the Arab, nonaligned, and nuclear countries to draft several documents. The aim of these documents is to guarantee the interests of nonnuclear and Arab countries and to ensure the revision of the NPT every five years, as opposed to the way it used to be in the last 25 years, when revision was ineffective and worthless.

Mubarak Criticizes Israeli Moves in Jerusalem

NC1005112595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0928 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ismailia, 15 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak joined the breakfast table of the Armed Forces officers on the first day of the 'Id al-Adha celebrations on the invitation of Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production.

President Mubarak was accompanied by the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, the two deputy prime ministers, Grand Imam of al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, a number of ministers, the head of the Suez Canal Authority, and the Ismailia governor.

At around 0800, President Mubarak and his companions, the commanders of the branches of the Armed Forces, and a number of Armed Forces commanders moved to the reception hall of the Second Field Army Headquarters. President Mubarak held a meeting there with the officers and soldiers of the Second Army. The meeting went on for about an hour.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that during the meeting, President Mubarak congratulated the Egyptian Armed Forces and people on 'Id al-Adha. He wished everyone goodwill and good health and wished Egypt progress and prosperity. He affirmed that the Armed Forces are Egypt's shield, the protectors of its soil and dignity in times of war and peace.

The information minister clarified that during the meeting, President Mubarak touched on a number of local and foreign issues and topics and answered a number of questions.

Regarding Israel's decision to expropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem, President Mubarak affirmed that this decision constitutes a violation of the principles of peace, which were signed by Israel and the Palestinians in the Declaration of Principles and the Madrid peace conference.

The president referred to his warnings against raising the issue of Jerusalem before establishing comprehensive and just peace on all the tracks, a step that would build bridges of confidence among all the parties. Thus, the appropriate atmosphere for discussing the Jerusalem issue would be set. The Jerusalem issue is the last issue for discussion in the settlement since it has special

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sensitivity because it includes the religious places of interest to all religions.

He affirmed that bringing up the Jerusalem issue this early in the process arouses religious feelings in Muslims and Christians and creates an embarrassing reality to all sides.

Safwat al-Sharif said in his statement that President Mubarak expressed his fears regarding the peace march with respect to the quick and hasty measures and initiatives that are being presented without any real vision. They are creating negative effects and complicated stances are bursting forth. These are leading to further complications in finding a solution and are creating a lack of confidence.

President Mubarak stressed that the countries in the region must realize that the age of individual decisions no longer exists and that the ruler cannot make a decision that violates public opinion in his country. He noted the interest in making the whole community participate in decisionmaking and respect the will of the people.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak answered a question regarding Egypt's initiative to submit a request to the United Nations to fly the Libyan pilgrims. He affirmed that he intervened in order to realize the wishes of the Libyan pilgrims to perform the pilgrimage by air, in order to avoid any further problems between Libya and the West and to bring closer the viewpoints regarding the existing crisis. He said that he intervened also to avert what might have created a crisis and an embarrassment to a number of fraternal Arab countries.

President Mubarak pointed out in this regard the many contacts he had held on this issue.

Answering a question on the international spread of terrorism, President Mubarak said that ever since the phenomenon of terrorism started to emerge and its images started to become clear, Egypt has during the past two years been subjected to an oppressive campaign. Some writers rose to defend terrorism, linking it to religious, economic, and other issues. Other people also made statements defending the rights of criminals, forgetting the rights of all the people to a secure life through which they can strengthen their economy and civilization instead of being threatened by a small misled group, in their present and future.

He clarified that Egypt stood fast against and thwarted terrorism. The world today has realized, after all its countries, without exception, have suffered from the dangerous phenomenon of terrorism, that terrorism is an organized crime. The world is now convinced of society s right to the inevitable confrontation of this crime through the institutions of the state using all means at their disposal in order to protect all pillars of society.

He added that the world has realized that terrorism is not an Islamic phenomenon, but a phenomenon that has no religion, doctrine, or land, and that it evolved from a faulty seed that could have been sown in a country. It was clear during the successful international conference on crime prevention, which was held in Egypt recently, that countries have realized the facts behind it, and the importance of coordinating among themselves in order to combat all forms of terrorism.

President Mubarak affirmed that through the consensus of its people and awareness of its institutions, Egypt has managed to contain the ringleaders of crime who tried to hide behind the mantle of religion.

In his statement, Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak expressed in his response to a question on Arab solidarity his hopes that the Arab League, the house of the Arabs, will play a role in uniting Arab ranks and coordinating stances among its member countries.

On the excesses by some newspapers and their distance from the interests of the nation, whether in defending the elements of terrorism or distorting the image of Egypt, the president affirmed that democracy and the freedom of the press are the best guarantees for reforming society. Through the freedom of the press, all issues are discussed in broad daylight, unlike under the yoke of dictatorial regimes where corruption and exploitation are widespread.

The president clarified that freedom of the press must be accompanied by a national conscience which places the higher interests of the homeland in their correct place, serves the customs and traditions of society, adheres to honesty and objectivity, and moves away from spreading rumors, creating lies, and arousing the people.

On the Egyptian economy, President Mubarak affirmed the importance of planning and follow-up, whether in the Armed Forces or in the state, because they organize and invest available resources to serve the objectives and priorities that develop society and meet its needs.

He clarified that economic reform seeks to realize an appropriate standard of living which cannot be realized except through a national economy that is capable of providing the pillars for comprehensive social, economic, and political development.

President Mubarak touched on the future of the Egyptian economy within the framework of the Gatt agreements

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and the importance of planning to realize abundant agricultural production, alongside increasing and improving the standard and competitiveness of industrial products.

President Mubarak praised accomplishments this year through the national campaign to increase the wheat harvest.

President Mubarak held this meeting after performing the 'Id al- Adha prayers at the Second Army mosque this morning.

Official: Israel Must Reconsider Settlement Policy

NC1005193295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 May — Jamal Bayyumi, director of the Israel desk at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, has stated that Israel must reconsider its immigration and settlement policy in line with the concept of peace and must stop following a policy of hegemony and domination.

In a statement to be published in the 11 May issue of AL-AHRAM, Bayyumi said it is inconceivable to speak about regional cooperation at a time when Israel adheres to the concept of military supremacy. He added that Israel's nuclear program will be a priority topic in any future Egyptian-Israeli talks so that we can we have a stable Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction.

Daily Criticizes U.S. Bill on Embassy Transfer

NC1005200995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AKHBAR criticizes the bill drafted by the members of the U.S. Congress led by Robert Dole, the Senate Republican majority leader. The bill provides for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

In its editorial to be published tomorrow, Thursday, the paper says that this is the first time in the history of international relations that members of a foreign parliament have intervened to instigate a country to seize the land of another state and set up its capital on it in a blatant defiance of international law.

The paper asks who gave the congressional members the unrestricted right to dispose of the land of other countries so that they insist on transferring Israel's capital to Jerusalem despite the UN Security Council resolution that considers Arab Jerusalem, which was seized by the Israeli forces in 1967, as an occupied land whose fate will only be determined through negotiations among the parties concerned.

The paper affirms that any world politician must place the interest of his country above all other considerations. Can the Congressional members who are calling for the transfer of Israel's capital to Jerusalem tell whether such reckless behavior will serve the interests of their country and its relations with the Arab and Islamic world or vice versa?

Commentary Reiterates Arab Claim to Jerusalem

NC0905145195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 May 95

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "The Holy Kaaba and Holy Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] While Muslims are circumambulating the Kaaba and ascending Mount 'Arafat as part of the rites of pilgrimage, their hearts long for Holy Jerusalem and the land of Palestine, where people in Tel Aviv are trying to distort their identity, change their reality, and affect their future. They do not realize, whether deliberately or out of ignorance, that the Arabs and Muslims throughout the world cannot abandon a single inch of land. Jerusalem is blessed and sacred and has been Palestine's capital since ancient times and will remain so until Judgment Day.

If Arab Jerusalem is the site of a crisis and a tragedy as a result of a conspiracy that is no secret to anybody, the Arabs and Muslims are capable through their unity and power to exercise their will to regain control of this Arab city, as it has always been and must be.

The aggression against Jerusalem, the capital of Israel [as heard], as Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid says, will not be the last aggression by Israel, whose violations and practices on the Arab territories continue against the Palestinian people. These practices intensify day after day despite the fact that several Arab states have joined the process to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Despite this, the Israeli actions continue to the point where they threaten the collapse of this same peace process, which the Arabs are anxious to preserve. [passage omitted]

The Arab nation possesses an honorable history. In times of challenge, it has always proved its capability to stand united, no matter how long it takes and regardless of the adverse circumstances. From Cairo, the capital of Arabism and Islam, came a loud cry and a warning from the Arab League. And from Cairo the Egyptian president, Government, and people stressed their rejection of Israel's decision to seize Jerusalem land and called on Israel to reverse its decision.

From the Kaaba and Mount 'Arafat, the Muslims are chanting God is Great on the eve of 'id al-Adha, the

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day of sacrifice. Their eyes look toward and their hearts long for holy Jerusalem, awaiting for its return.

Article Terms U.S. Embargo on Iran 'Hasty'

NC0805213095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 May 95 p 2

[Article by Ahmad Bahjat: "Iran and the United States"]

[FBIS Transliterated Text] At the meeting of the World Jewish Congress in New York and in the presence of the Israeli foreign minister, U.S. President Bill Clinton declared a total embargo on Iran. This is an attempt to strangle and punish Iran. It is charged with threatening world peace with a nuclear bomb that it has not yet made. The first reaction to the U.S. decision came from Israel, which welcomed it and described it as positive. In fact, the U.S. decision is hasty. It shows bias toward Israeli propaganda about Iran, propaganda that accuses Iran of encouraging terrorism in the Middle East and exporting it worldwide. The goal of the propaganda is psychological preparation for an Israeli strike against Iran, similar to the previous attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

An embargo is known not to be as effective a weapon against regimes as it is against people. This weapon was used against Iraq but the regime did not fall, even though the Iraqi people have paid the price. It seems clear that U.S. policy makers have not learned anything from previous experience and have not realized that wars against people end without decisive victory, only huge losses to America.

The Vietnam War left approximately 60,000 Americans dead but it did not end in victory. The United States had another experience in Iran when the American Embassy in Tehran was taken over. U.S. intelligence and forces failed to solve the problem. It seems clear that current U.S. policy has shifted its hostility from red color (Communism) to green color (Islam).

Previously, we ruled out the idea of any conspiracy against the Islamic world, believing that the conspiracy was only an illusion. However, events have proven that we were naive and show that there is a position against the Islamic world, considering it the new enemy of the West. The West brands this enemy terrorist and does not distinguish between a moderate Muslim who defends his land and a terrorist who bombs and destroys; they put everyone in the same category.

Thirty years after the Vietnam War, former U.S. Defense Secretary McNamara said in his memoirs that the United States made a mistake in entering that war. Twenty years from now, or perhaps fewer, someone will appear and say that the United States made a mistake in deciding to impose an embargo on Iran. It will be a belated admission and will not compensate for the losses to U.S. interests.

Police Kill 'Prominent Terrorist Leader' in Alexandria

NC1005150495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA) — A prominent terrorist leader was killed today when security forces stormed his hideout in the Hanutil District of Alexandria, a responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said.

The source added that the terrorist leader's name was Hasan Hamid al-Sayyid Khayri and that he was known for being extremely violent.

The source said the State Security detective agencies monitored a new terrorist plot by the organization's [not further identified] leaders abroad, who instructed one of its leading runaway leaders inside the country to form a new terrorist group in the Alexandria Governorate. The aim of the new terrorist group was to resume criminal activities, especially since many terrorist groups have been captured by the security agencies.

The source added that after searching and observation, the State Security agents discovered that terrorist Hasan Hamid al-Sayyid Khayri was in charge of this move on orders from the terrorist organization's leaders abroad. He had received military training on all types of weapons and on preparing, manufacturing, and using bombs and explosives in Afghan camps.

The security source said information revealed that the terrorist acted as a liaison between terrorists inside the country and the organization's leaders abroad. The information also revealed that the leaders abroad provided him with large sums of money in foreign currencies to finance terrorist attacks that the terrorist organization seized on 4 May planned against public, executive, party, and press corps figures and a number of important installations and to plant explosives at public assembly sites.

The terrorist leaders abroad also provided the terrorist with forged documents for use in his movements.

The source added that the terrorist was one of the most prominent aides to terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam, leader of the terrorist organizations in Egypt who was killed by police in April 1994.

The security source said the terrorist had escaped after receiving a 15-year prison sentence in Case No. 22/92, the jurisdiction of the higher military prosecution.

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He also fled after involvement in Case No. 235/94, the jurisdiction of the higher state security prosecution, concerning explosions in banks and in Case No. 234/95, the jurisdiction of the higher state security prosecution.

The source added that after adopting the legal procedures, antiterrorism units of the State Security Detective Agency in the City of Alexandria seized the command of this terrorist group.

The source said that when his hideout at the Fawzi Mu'adh compound in the Hanufil District in Alexandria was encircled, terrorist Hasan Hamid al-Sayyid Khayri began to shoot at the forces from his automatic weapon and that they killed him.

The security source added that after searching the deceased terrorist's hideout, an automatic weapon, four magazines filled with bullets, and complete equipment to forge seals and capsule compressors were seized.

Equipment used in manufacturing explosives, including two thermal detonators, resistors, electric wires, transistors, papers with electric circuit drawings, and forged identity cards void of information, were also seized.

Some jewelry and sums of 500 and 750 Egyptian pounds were found after the search. The source said all hideouts of the organization linked to the said terrorist were also raided and that personnel sheltering in these hideouts were arrested and that their possessions were seized and are being checked.

The Higher State Security Prosecution men went to the scene of the incident to begin investigations.

Police Destroy Poppy, Hemp Plants in Sinai

NC1005150395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
8 May 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The security services in northern Sinai have launched a huge campaign to destroy narcotics plantations in rugged desert areas. They have seized 20 million poppy and Indian hemp plants. They also have seized a quantity of explosives and gunpowder in eight unlicensed marble quarries.

Major General al-Muhtadi-bi-Allah Jabr, assistant interior minister for northern Sinai security affairs, received information that some bedouins were cultivating narcotics plants in new areas surrounded by sand dunes inaccessible by car. [passage omitted]

Security forces raided the areas of Bi'r al-'Abd, Ruba'ah, al-Hasanah, and al-Jafjafah. They discovered 25 plots of lands cultivated with narcotics plants. They destroyed 18 million Indian hemp plants from which "bango" is extracted and 2 million poppy plants. They also arrested 27 bedouins, who were cultivating these plants. [passage omitted]

Libya

Reaction to U.S. Proposal on Embassy in Jerusalem

'Dangerous' Policy Condemned

LD1105100895 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0720 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 11 May 95 — It is reported that the Republican leader at the U.S. Congress wants to table a draft law stipulating that the U.S. Embassy be transferred to Jerusalem in order to assert that Jerusalem is the capital of the Israeli entity. Commenting on this, a source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity issued the following statement to JANA:

In a statement of January 1995 after the death of the prophet, the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity warned that calls by the leader of the U.S. House of Representatives for the U.S. Embassy to be transferred to Jerusalem were dangerous, given that the U.S. House of Representatives is a legislative body supposed to respect international conventions and resolutions, [word indistinct] calling for, and encouraging the Israelis to violate them. This trend is now confirmed by a proposal tabled by the Republican majority leader that his call be implemented.

In this respect, the General People's Committee for Unity wants to reaffirm its condemnation and denunciation of this U.S. policy, which unreservedly backs the Israelis, who are usurping [words indistinct]. It warns the Arab nation against the support given by this U.S. policy to the Israeli aggression and to their policy of eating into Arab Palestinian land in a planned way. The committee affirms the following:

1. Day after day, U.S. policy confirms its enmity to the Arab nation by supporting the Israeli enemy and encouraging that enemy to continue its occupation of Arab lands. It also offers the Israeli enemy huge economic and military capabilities, as well as political support, to protect the Israelis and their aggression. This poses a present and future threat to the Arab nation.

2. The fact that the Israeli enemy has usurped Jerusalem and more Arab Palestinian land shows clear contempt for the numerous resolutions issued by the Security Council and the UN General Assembly condemning the moves and measures taken to alter the geographical and demographic status of Jerusalem. Such moves are regarded as null and illegal. The Security Council and the UN General Assembly also urged states to

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observe these resolutions, and not to recognize the Israeli measures and attempts to impose fait accomplis.

3. The U.S. move to legislate for the transfer of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem coincides and integrates with the planned Israeli confiscation of Arab lands with a view to judaizing them and altering their Arab and Islamic nature. This coincidence shows the umbrella of protection given to the Israelis and their measures in the face of Arab, Islamic, and international rejection of the usurpation of land and the desecration of holy sites.

4. The hostility the United States displays for the Arab nation day in day out affirms U.S. contempt for international resolutions, for the UN Security Council, and for the United Nations. These positions also practically affirm that UN resolutions are not binding when directed against the Israelis, and hence the claim that the United States seeks peace and tries to maintain security and peace in the world loses credibility.

5. U.S. insistence on obstructing the adoption of an international position at the Security Council, in response to the call made by the Arab League Council at its recent session in Cairo to oppose the Israeli confiscation of Arab lands, requires that a more energetic Arab position be taken to stop any form of bilateral and multilateral contact and negotiation with the Israelis, to expose the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance against the Arab nation, and to carry out the inter-Arab agreements and conventions, particularly the joint Arab defense treaty.

Continued U.S. Ties Called 'Treason'

LD1005124295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0748 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 10 May (JANA) — The U.S. Government has begun to take practical, direct, and declared steps to sanction, adopt, and forcefully market [al-taswiq and jabri] Israel's occupation of Arab Jerusalem, and to regard it as the eternal capital of its hostile entity.

It has been officially announced in Washington that Robert Dole, leader of the Republican Party in the U.S. Congress, has submitted a proposal to the U.S. Congress on moving the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem, which deliberately coincided with the visit to the United Stats by the terrorist Rabin, who has announced there that Jerusalem will remain the united and eternal capital of the Israelis. This week world capitals witnessed U.S. diplomatic pressure in that direction. Although there have been numerous and continued hostile action by the United States against Arabs and Muslims, this step is the most serious.

The political editor of the Libyan news agency JANA has commented on the news by saying that every Arab and Muslim citizen has the full right to question the stance [not further explained] vis-a-vis the United States and the usefulness of relations with it, now that it has become stark naked, without even a fig leaf.

He said that Arabs and Muslims are now fully convinced that to have relations with the United States from now on is nothing less than a crime.

The editor, together with the Arab and Muslim citizens, wonders about those who would maintain any kind of relations with the United States after this .... How will their conscience allow them to justify that?

The editor said that it would not surprise anyone in the world when Arabs and Muslims regard relations with the United States as unpardonable treason.

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Kuwait

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Arab Ties, Iran

JN0905130095 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 may 95 pp 22-23

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by George Sim'an in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sim'an] How are Kuwait's relations with Jordan, the PLO, Sudan, and Yemen?

[Al-Sabah] We have no contacts with the Sudanese. We only meet them at the Arab League. There are no initiatives in terms of the issue of rapprochement. Yemen has been viewed by Kuwait in a special way since it was established. We might have many things to say to our brothers in Yemen, but there is no positive step toward rapprochement with Sanaa. We hope ranks will be closed as in the past. Our relations with Jordan are like those with Yemen. Relations were good, and God willing, they will be the same in the future. However, we hope our brothers in Jordan will understand the popular Kuwaiti reaction to what was said in the Jordanian press, radio, and television. What was said insulted the people in Kuwait and Kuwait itself. We hope they will come up with things that will make the Kuwaiti people feel the brothers in Jordan have returned to truth and reality. This is what we hope from our brothers in Jordan, and we are in contact with them.

[Sim'an] Recently, you paid $4 million in aid to the Palestinian self-rule authority. What is the nature of the relationship between Kuwait and this authority?

[Al-Sabah] First, I hope you will not mix the people of Palestine with the PLO. We have differences with the PLO, but these differences are not personal. They are principled differences over what happened after the occupation of Kuwait. We do not have any differences with the Palestinian people, and we support the Palestinian people in anything they accept for themselves.

Regarding the aid, we paid $25 million [as published], not $4 million. We paid $17 million before the $4 million. The aid was paid to the international fund for health, social, and education purposes.

[Sim'an] How do you view your future relations with Iran if the United States escalates its pressure on Tehran, and in light of the repeated reports about its armaments and its efforts to develop its arsenal?

[Al-Sabah] Iran is a neighborly country. I believe our relations with Iran are good. However, regarding U.S. escalation, the United States is a superpower which has its own policy. Kuwait, however, is a small state and Iran's neighbor. Kuwait always tries to maintain a relationship of mutual respect, which exists between us.

On the other hand, there is a crack in these relations with regard to Iran's demand for the islands, the occupation of the islands, and Iranian-Emirian dispute. The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states are united in this regard. We hope things will not turn into confrontation. We have confidence in the wisdom of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan and the officials in Iran. We hope they will resolve this issue peacefully, not through threats. What happened to Kuwait is sufficient and this must be a lesson for all parties.

[Sim'an] In light of the recent Iraqi and non-Iraqi movements and Baghdad's rejection of the international resolution allowing it to sell a quantity of oil according to certain terms, do you believe Iraq can break its isolation?

[Al-Sabah] This question must be addressed to the Iraqi people. In fact, we share with the Iraqi people their pain and what they are being exposed to currently. We were happy about this resolution which was adopted recently and which gives Iraq $2 billion every six months. Regrettably, the Iraqi regime rejected this. We hope the Iraqis will resort to reason and accept the resolution if there really is a starvation there. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

'Arrogant' U.S. Attitudes Plant 'Seeds of War'

MM1005141595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 95 p 9

[Article by Bilal al-Hasan: "Even Courtesy No Longer Exists in U.S. Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington treats some of the essential issues pertaining to the Arab region with contempt, haughtiness, and absolute partiality toward Israel.

The United States can behave as if it only has one friend in the Middle East, namely Israel, but how long will it be able to behave as if many Arabs are also its friends?

Recent weeks have witnessed some American ingenuity in expressing anti-Arab positions without any regard for Arab reaction, U.S. interests, the views of the rulers and leaders of the region, or how far the region can cope with the consequences of such positions.

Three strategic issues have come to the fore in the region, and the United States has acted on them with arrogance, pomposity, and disregard for a minimum degree of logic or even courtesy. All three issues are

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strategic issues which sooner or later will have a bearing on the questions of war and peace.

On the question of Israeli settlement in Jerusalem through the expropriation of land, the U.S. attitude has not been compatible with its global responsibilities nor with its position as a state. The Israeli action violated an official agreement signed at the White House under the auspices of the U.S. President himself. It was also in violation of a U.S.-Israeli agreement in which Yitzhaq Rabin pledged to suspend the building of settlements to former U.S. President George Bush, in return for which he got U.S. guarantees of $10 billion for the absorption of new Jewish immigrants. The United States should (theoretically) have been the first state to be furious at the Israeli action because it constituted an insult to its President and a violation of the pledges made to him or under his sponsorship, but the official position was quite the opposite. Madeleine Albright stood up in some Arab countries to declare most insolently that she did not favor submitting the issue to the Security Council and that the matter could be resolved through compensations. And so the only superpower in the world is telling the whole world that its promises are insincere and that it was insecure to depend on its sponsorship of a solution to a problem.

On the question of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, at the conference held in New York, the United States acted in a way devoid of any logic, tact, or cogency, simply using its ability to threaten and impose through its adamant rejection of any mention of the need for Israel to abide by the provisions of the treaty. At the same time it continued its pressure on others, the Arabs especially and particularly Egypt, to withdraw any observation about the Israeli position. Even if this deliberate departure from logic and tact can solve the problems of voting at some conference, it will not be able to prevent the start of a new arms race that would once again plunge the Arab region into a whirlpool of conflict and confrontation, but the United States does not care or pay any attention to that even though it constitutes a threat to its declared official policy.

Finally, there is the issue of Iran and Madeleine Albright's visit to Egypt where tactlessness reached the point of attributing to the head of state some statements and positions totally divorced from the truth. She said that the Egyptian president showed understanding of the U.S. position against Iran. Egypt was compelled to issue an official denial of that. She continued her insolence at the joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. There, in front of him, she said that they had discussed the economic embargo against Iran. 'Amr Musa had to break the rules of hospitality to announce immediately and in front of reporters that that was not true and that the issue was not discussed at all.

The attitude of the U.S. representative can only be described as frivolous, arrogant, and illogical. That chain of U.S. attitudes is pushing toward the creation of anti-U.S. policy and, more dangerously, it is planting the seeds of war in the region on the pretext of the search for peace.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Urges U.S. To Reconsider Jerusalem Issue

JN1005203395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 May (WAKH) — The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has called on the U.S. Administration to adopt a clear and firm position to defeat a proposal to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, since such a move contradicts the resolutions of international legitimacy and U.S. pledges on this issue.

This came in a statement made to the Emirates News Agency by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, following his meeting this evening with U.S. Ambassador William Arthur Rugh.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan said he told the U.S. ambassador that the UAE deems Jerusalem the basis of Middle East peace, and that this issue is very sensitive and serious for the Arab and Islamic nations.

Shaykh Hamdan added that the proposal which some plan to make at the U.S. Congress today contradicts the resolutions issued by the Security Council and the UN General Assembly on Jerusalem. This proposal also contradicts the pledges made by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the Palestinians, as well as the recent stands expressed by the U.S. State Department.

Shaykh Hamdan said any such action will cause great harm to the peace process, pose a real threat to it, and undermine it. In addition, any such action will encourage the states and parties that oppose this process and cast doubt on the credibility of the United States as a main sponsor of the peace process. This should prompt it to maintain a neutral stand toward the two parties of the conflict.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan noted that passing this draft resolution will do away with the impartial role of the United States, because it represents a clear bias towards a certain party. He noted that floating this draft resolution at this time in particular coincides with the Israeli decision to confiscate more

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territories in Jerusalem as part of the Israeli firm policy of gradual usurpation of Palestinian lands — a policy that contradicts the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement.

Concluding his statements, Shaykh Hamdan said that the UAE calls on the U.S. Administration to take every necessary and conclusive measure to foil the draft resolution for moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem. He said: The UAE also calls on Congressional leaders not to allow the highly sensitive Jerusalem issue to turn into a card for one-upmanship in the electoral campaign in the United States. He stressed that the credibility of the United States as a major sponsor of the peace process relies, to a major extent, on its stand toward Jerusalem, because peace in the Middle East centers on this issue and because Jerusalem is central and basic to Arabs and Muslims and to believers in other religions.

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Minister Sends Letter to UN on Turkish Invasion

JN1005150595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 10 May (INA)—Acting Foreign Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stressed that the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq is a serious violation of the provisions of the UN Charter, the international law, and the principles of human rights.

He added that as a result of this invasion, innocent citizens were killed and their houses were looted, and large number of Turkish citizens sought refuge in Iraq.

This came in a letter Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, has conveyed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

In his letter, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi pointed out that these serious violations of the simplest rules of international law should have urged the United Nations to assume its responsibilities in accordance with the UN Charter, make decisions, and adopt the appropriate measures to end these violations.

The acting foreign minister said the United Nations' silence about the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq proves anew that it adopts a policy of double standards, not only toward tackling international political issues, but also toward humanitarian issues. He said this is a serious issue because this policy will deprive the United Nations of its credibility and ability to defend the principles of the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, and human rights in a fair and neutral manner.

In his letter, the minister pointed to the measures the United Nations adopted against Iraq when a number of Iraqi citizens migrated outside Iraq's border in 1991, despite the fact that it knows that this immigration has taken place under circumstances the Iraqi Government had nothing to do with. The minister said: These measures were aimed at tarnishing Iraq's international reputation. Thus, the United Nations appeased a number of big powers which try to exploit the human rights principles in order to achieve wicked political objectives against Iraq and to threaten its sovereignty, independence, and national unity.

He added: The recklessness of these covetous states reached the point of hypocrisy. They considered the immigration of a few thousand Iraqi Kurds to Turkish territory an issue threatening world peace and security. However, these same hypocritical states remained silent about the tragedy of thousands of the Turkish Kurds who were forced to leave their houses for Iraq to escape the repression of the Turkish forces. They did not consider their immigration a threat to security and stability in the region and the world.

He said: These hypocritical governments have made one ask: Have the United Nations and the Security Council been turned into a tool in the hands of these hypocritical states?

Acting Foreign Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi requested that this letter be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Paper Urges 'Speedy' Turkish Troop Withdrawal

JN1105100495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH published here today has stated that the only way for Turkey to show good faith toward Iraq lies in effecting a speedy withdrawal of its invading troops from northern Iraq and ending the presence of the so-called Poised Hammer force on Turkish territory.

In an article published today, the paper, which specializes in military affairs, adds that the goal of protecting Turkish national security is not achievable by encroaching on the territory of neighboring Iraq or establishing ties with the mercenaries and agents in northern Iraq, but rather by reaching an understanding with the central government in Baghdad, effecting direct cooperation with it in order to break the economic embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, and promoting the ties of good neighborliness between the two countries.

The paper believes that Turkey's problems cannot be solved by carrying out incursions outside Turkish territory, but rather by addressing the economic hardship it is experiencing. It is to be recalled that this hardship has been caused by the closure of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline at the behest of the United States, the paper argues. This closure has cost Turkish workers thousands of job opportunities and deprived their families of the abundant income they used to make.

Concluding its article, the paper urges the Ankara government to build ties of friendship with Iraq. Such ties, the paper maintains, must be based on sound foundations rooted in good neighborliness, Islamic solidarity, and economic and political cooperation.

PUK Repulses KDP Attack in Rawandoz

NC1005153895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1510 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 2100 on 9 May, a Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] force launched a treacherous attack on the forward positions of the peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in the (Armusa) mountains in the Rawandoz district. This was an attempt

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by the KDP to impose its control on the region and abort the ongoing efforts to end the fighting and consolidate peace in Kurdistan.

However, the hero PUK peshmergas repulsed the attacking force and compelled it to retreat after inflicting on it immense losses in life and equipment.

PUK Attacks Repulsed in Shaykh Nsir, Wirta

JN1005193095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Union [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK] has continued its cease-fire violations despite the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, launching two attacks on our peshmergas in Shaykh Nasir and Wirta.

Brother citizens, Kurdistan parties, and mediators at home and abroad, we regret to inform you that on the first day of 'Id al-Adha, the PUK armed men violated the cease-fire and launched two attacks on our peshmerga positions: the first in Shaykh Nasir and the second in Wirta. Reports from the (Qasreh) axis, say that at 2100 on 9 May, the PUK armed men attacked the forward positions of our fighters in the Qasreh axis in Shaykh Nasir. Peshmergas from our party and the Hizballah [party of God] confronted the attackers and forced them to withdraw.

The (Qasreh) axis also announced that at the same time on 9 May, the PUK gunmen launched another attack on our Peshmerga positions in Wirta. They did not fare better this time round. The hero pershmerga of the Khaniqah [Iraqi place name] Organization confronted them and defeated their attack, forcing them to withdraw.

Brother citizens, it is an act of shame and cowardice that these aggressors should violate the cease-fire during the 'Id of the Muslims.

Paper Urges Arab Stand Against U.S. Mediation

JN0805094195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0628 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the collusion of certain Arab regimes with the United States has encouraged the enemies to attempt to undermine the Arab land and decision.

In an article published today, the newspaper says: The Zionist decision to confiscate Arab lands — and threatening Jerusalem will not be that last chapter — comes due to the submission of certain Arab regimes to the American administration and their fervent drive toward the illusion of settlement, which has been conducted under the supervision of this administration since the Madrid conference, which represented a catastrophe for the Arab homeland.

The paper adds: Despite the significance of the Arab League's decision the day before yesterday to call on the Security Council to convene an urgent session that would call on the enemy to abrogate its decision to confiscate Arab lands in Jerusalem, it is clear beforehand that such a resolution, if it was actually passed [by the Security Council], would have no considerable or conclusive effect. Experience has proven that many previous international resolutions on Jerusalem failed to prevent the enemy from implementing its plans to annex the city. These resolutions failed to bind Tel Aviv to do anything.

The newspaper went on to say: What lends support to this conclusion is Madeleine Albright's remarks that the Security Council is not the proper place to debate the Zionist measure. This indicates in advance that Washington will not approve of any decision condemning the enemy or applying any pressure on it. Evidence from the recent past shows that the United States has been providing the Zionist entity with political cover, a margin for maneuvering, and military pressure cards in order to help it forge ahead with its schemes to such a degree that makes [the United States] an accomplice of the Zionist enemy in all that has taken place and is currently taking place.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH argues: A conclusive Arab step to confront the Zionist schemes can be taken only with an Arab agreement on a unified position rejecting submission to and the mediation of the United States and seeking to adopt a pan-Arab decision free of American intervention or peace calls — calls that reflect nothing but ineptness and inability to take a proper and correct action.

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Commentary on Clinton Administration Behavior

TA1005123795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 95 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Uncle Sam's Favors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] America was very nice to us this week. The Senate moved to remind the world that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, and President Clinton delivered a nice speech at the AIPAC [American Israel Public Relations Committee] conference, warmly citing the arms sales to Israel and vowing to protect the children of Qiryat Shemona. However, amid all this lavish praise, the United States forgot the main point: It is far from doing what is necessary on an issue which could make an unparalleled contribution to the security of its courageous and loved friend.

No agreement between us and the Arabs has ever been successfully concluded without strong and even invasive U.S. involvement. That is what the previous administration, which did not get to see the Oslo accords, did. With great effort, and frequently with a sour face, it led the horses to water. George Bush and James Baker engendered the Madrid conference, and they brought Yitzhaq Shamir and Hafiz al-Asad to it.

The roads leading to this opening were not always nice. Baker was not as nice as the polite and apathetic Christopher. He once told the Shamir government that the White House had had enough of the delays in the process and that if it wanted to make progress — here is the White House's phone number. Six years ago, astonished AIPAC delegates heard him say that Israel should abandon its historic vision of a Greater Israel. Baker's speech was drafted by Dennis Ross, Christopher's senior aide today.

Never before had a U.S. President said such lovely words to the Jewish lobby, which is very heart-warming. However, friends are not there just to pat in you in the back. The senators who sat by the Potomac and cried when they remembered Zion did not just have Israeli interests at heart. The most unpopular thing one could have done in Israel this week was to question the big favor that the American politicians were doing us with regard to the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem at a time when these delicate negotiations are at such a sensitive juncture. They did what they did, first of all, because an election year has begun there, just as it has started here.

If anybody had any doubts about it, Clinton himself dispelled them with his cheerful remarks about the elections awaiting him and Rabin. Only a few senators would have dared not to join the initiative at a time when the Jewish vote is being courted as it has never before. However, the point is that it is hard to recall any case of a Senate initiative to promote the negotiations with the Palestinians. Instead, Jesse Helms, the chairman of the House [as published] Foreign Affairs Committee, overdid even the Likud governments when at the colorful celebration of solidarity he claimed that according to the Geneva Convention the settlements are legal.

Uncle Sam's favors are very sweet. We could use them and welcome this affability had our most important national issue not been in serious danger. We could condone the U.S. reservations about imposing peace on the sides had it not been for the fact that two administrations, during which important agreements were attained between us and the Arabs, behaved totally differently.

Jimmy Carter realized that without the demanding and pressing set-up at Camp David no peace would be achieved with Egypt. During a visit to Jerusalem in March 1979, he closeted himself in his room at the King David Hotel and requested that his plane be prepared to fly back home until the Begin government changed its mind. Had it not been for him, there would have been no Camp David, and probably no agreement either. Richard Nixon, Rabin's favorite model of a U.S. President, did not leave us alone and kept sending Henry Kissinger here to plead, pressure, and use other creative tactics.

Except for the Reagan administration, which also excelled in endless sweetness toward us, the current administration has made the least accomplishments since the accommodation process started 20 years ago. The Oslo process was presented to it on a platter, without it having to lift a finger. Although is had been tottering away for two and a half years, without any progress to show for it, this administration has collected the greatest bonuses thanks to what was achieved here last year between us, the Palestinians, and the Jordanians.

The American betrayal does not lie in what they did, but in what they did not do. The heavy silence of Washington's top political echelon hovers over the dying negotiations, after all the shuttle missions and the sincere albeit feeble efforts. The concern for our security, which is so dear to the administration, should have caused it to be much more active and creative in promoting an arrangement.

It is true that without a clear policy on the part of the Rabin government, and the prime minister in particular, it is hard to demand that Clinton's minority administration be more determined than his friend. But that is exactly the point: U.S. involvement is not needed when we are managing by ourselves. It is needed when a problem that is beyond our power to solve is at stake.

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What favor is the administration doing us when it behaves like a Rabin groupie? And what will be the sense of a U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem if at its cocktail parties the guests will sip martinis and tear their hair out over the chance to reach peace that was missed?

Correspondent on Outcome of Clinton-Rabin Talks

TA1005180595 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report we have received from our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen about White House disappointment with the outcome of the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Bill Clinton.

Although Rabin and Clinton were smiling as they arrived at the pro-Israel lobby's convention in Washington, our political correspondent was informed by senior U.S. sources of dissatisfaction with Rabin's failure to bring any new ideas promoting the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. The U.S. sources added that it was obvious in retrospect that Rabin's meeting with President Clinton was unimportant, as it neither made changes nor added anything.

Israeli sources told our correspondent that, for their part, they were under the impression that the Clinton-Rabin meeting was important, and that President Clinton would step up his involvement in the peace process in the wake of the meeting.

Rabinovich Denies U.S. Proposal for Syria Talks

TA1105051095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's Ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovich has denied reports published in Israel according to which the United States has presented its own bridging proposal to Syria and Israel in order to surmount the difficulties with regard to Syria's demand for equality [shivyoniyut] in the security arrangements on both sides of the border. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Amb. Rabinovich expressed the view that the reports were published as part of a deliberate disinformation effort. The Syrians are interested in getting the United States to act as a mediator and present its own bridging proposals in the negotiations between Syria and Israel.

[Rabinovich] I cannot confirm that such a proposal was made or that any solution in the form of a U.S. bridging proposal was put forward, because this is simply not true. On the contrary, one of the most important elements in the prime minister's recent visit to the United States was the emphasis he placed on Israel's opposition to U.S. bridging proposals and on the fact that these are Syrian-Israeli negotiations in which the United States participates but is not expected to mediate or to present bridging proposals.

[Golan] Nevertheless, Amb. Rabinovich adds that it is possible that certain levels of the U.S. Administration are considering the idea of presenting bridging proposals. Other reports noted that the U.S. proposal spoke about reciprocal [hadadiyim] security arrangements that take geographical factors into account. Amb. Rabinovich stressed that such a formula has never been presented as an official U.S. bridging proposal.

[Rabinovich] Therefore, I believe that over the past two weeks, the gap between our positions has narrowed somewhat with regard to the issue of security arrangements. I hope we can agree on some kind of paper following the prime minister's visit and that of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. However, such a paper or nonpaper [last word in English] — or, in other words, the understandings that must form the basis of the security talks when these resume — must be based on a Syrian-Israeli understanding. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 11 May in a report by Hemi Shalev and Yitzhaq Ben-Horin on pages 1 and 2 notes that "Rabinovich and his Syrian counterpart, Walid al-Mu'allim, will try to agree on a formula that will be presented to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when he visits the United States next week. Senior political sources reported yesterday that U.S. officials believe that the Syrians may accept the formula, thus leading to a breakthrough in the negotiations. The Jerusalem sources all expressed the assessment that the Washington talks have reached a 'moment of truth' but they differed with regard to the chances of achieving significant progress.

"The formula the ambassadors are working on is based on the agreements reached by the two in the course of their talks over recent weeks, as well as understandings attained by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington during his visit. The formula reached will apparently be comprehensive and stipulate 'parity [shivyon] in the security arrangements'."]

Sne Attacks Likud's 'Meddling in U.S. Politics'

TA1105061195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Efrayim Sne is currently visiting Washington, where he vehemently attacked Likud officials who are acting, he said, in order

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to undermine the peace process. The minister described these actions as antidemocratic. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports.

[Begin recording] [Sne] These are people who held senior positions in Shamir's government. To the best of my understanding, they are meddling in U.S. politics in order to bring about U.S. moves that will lead to either a slowdown in the political process or the creation of an atmosphere of hopelessness that will be of no benefit to the United States. Such activities were carried out several months ago within the framework of a scare propaganda campaign against the stationing of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights. These efforts are now focused on cutting U.S. aid to the Palestinians under various pretexts. I want to make it perfectly clear that whoever cuts aid to the Palestinians is effectively supporting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], because Hamas flourishes and draws strength from poverty. Whoever seeks to perpetuate such economic distress is to all intents and purposes helping Hamas.

[Golan] When speaking about Likud envoys, are you implying that this is a deliberate, planned policy of the Likud leadership and its chairman, Binyamin Netanyahu? Although some of these people used to work in the prime minister's bureau, they are not identified with the present Likud leadership.

[Sne] The Likud activists operating here are former Ambassador Zalman Shoval, the former director general of the Prime Minister's Office, a former counterterrorism adviser, the former liaison to Congress. These people were part of the inner circle of the previous Israeli Government and are now trying to achieve in Washington that which the Israeli voter denied them. [end recording]

Objections to U.S. Embassy Relocation Discussed

TA0905110795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Capital City"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's 47th Independence Day was less than a week ago but it appears the meaning of independence has escaped some government ministers — apparently even the prime minister himself. Some last-minute lobbying by an "unnamed official traveling with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's entourage" against today's congressional initiative to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is not merely embarrassing, but reminiscent of the traditional behavior of Diaspora Jews in times of trouble.

The "don't make waves" approach to life may have been suitable for a persecuted minority living in hostile surroundings. The establishment of the State of Israel, with Jerusalem as its capital, was intended to consign this philosophy of Jewish life to the dustbin of history. In the nearly half-century of its existence, Israel has indeed changed the image — and self-image — of the Jewish people, immeasurably and for the better.

Most countries with whom Israel has diplomatic relations may have chosen to dispute the fact that Jerusalem is legitimately the country's capital but this slight is not one Israelis should choose to ignore. This is not a pariah state, nor does it depend on the whims of others for its survival. As the only democracy in the Middle East, it deserves the respect that other countries, including some of the worst tyrannical dictatorships, take for granted. It is the right of any sovereign state to choose its own capital.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk has said moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem would explode the peace process and Secretary of State Warren Christopher added over the weekend that such a move would "interfere" with it. It is difficult to see how. If the Palestinians and Syrians are sincere about making peace with Israel — and there are still serious questions about their final intentions — the siting of the U.S. Embassy in the western part of Jerusalem should not raise an eyebrow in Gaza or Damascus.

Rabin correctly pointed out that world recognition of Israeli sovereignty over a united Jerusalem is the government's main goal. It is curious that he does not accept that moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem can only strengthen this aim. Once the powerful U.S. moves its embassy, other countries are sure to follow suit, leading to a strong diplomatic presence in Israel's capital that would bolster the city's status.

Even more puzzling is the suggestion that moving the U.S. Embassy is a Likud ploy to sabotage the peace process. For decades, Israeli officials and pro-Israeli lobbyists in Washington of all political stripes have been pushing for recognition of Jerusalem as the nation's capital. To suggest suddenly that a congressional initiative, which apparently has the support of 93 senators, is the work of partisan Israeli politicians or their American supporters smacks more of paranoia than reason.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, the sponsor of the initiative, and Democratic Senator Daniel Inouye who has announced he will cosponsor Dole's move, must find it bewildering that the leader of a proud, independent nation should be so suspicious of their efforts on Israel's behalf. They probably also fail to understand how important ministers like Avraham Shohat and Yosi Sarid can claim, as they did after Sunday's cabinet meeting, that the siting of the American embassy in Israel is

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"clearly an internal American matter" as Sarid put it or, as Shulamit Aloni remarked, "provocative."

The words of the psalmist "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem" which resonated so strongly over the ages, ironically now seem forgotten at a time when Israel's economic, diplomatic and military standing is stronger than ever before.

The issue of Israel's capital is an Israeli issue, and only an Israeli issue. It is in Israel's interests, not America's, that the U.S. Embassy be situated in Jerusalem. One would expect the country's leaders to understand this and to strengthen, rather than disparage, the standing of their capital.

Peres Discusses Russian Nuclear Aid to Iran

TA1005165795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel has reason to believe that Iran has been trying to smuggle in scientists, expertise, and materiel in a bid to attain nuclear capability as soon as possible.

Regarding Russian President Yeltsin's announcement that his country would not sell a uranium-enriching system to Iran, Minister Peres said the decision reduced the danger but did not eliminate it.

Mr. Peres made these remarks in conversation with our political correspondent Shlomo Raz following his meeting with the visiting foreign minister of Poland.

Army Closes 'Pro-Hamas' Press Office in Nabulus

TA1005125295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 95 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days ago, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed the Nabulus press office in Nabulus, claiming that incendiary material was found there linking it to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

The closing order was signed by the military commander of the Judaea and Samaria region, Brigadier General Udi Shalvi, and was handed two days ago to Muhammad 'Adili, the office manager. The order says that closing the office is required "to maintain proper government procedure, public order, and the safety of IDF troops." The order says that the decision was made "because the press office was found to hold large quantities of incendiary material linking it with Hamas."

Journalist 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Qawasimi, who is in charge of the office, yesterday absolutely rejected the allegations made in the order.

Last January, the defense forces raided the office and seized files, documents, computers, and documentary material that al- Qawasimi uses for his work, he claimed. "There were leaflets by all Palestinian organizations which we keep for documentation," he said.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 10 May carries a page-2 report by Jon Immanuel which says: "In Nabulus, the army closed the pro-Hamas Quds Press office on Monday for publishing incendiary material, four months after raiding it and taking away a computer and files, a military source confirmed."]

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Al-Kabariti Condemns Jerusalem Land Confiscation

TA1005125495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 May 95 pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Dan Avidan on 9 May; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti yesterday expressed the hope that the Israeli Government would retract its decision to confiscate more than 500 dunams of land in East Jerusalem. In an interview with DAVAR, the Jordanian foreign minister said that if Israel does not rescind the decision, the Jordanian Government will hold a serious, in-depth discussion over the situation "and see what it can do."

The Jordanian foreign minister reiterated the position presented to Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin two days ago, namely that if Israel does not retract the land confiscation decision, the Jordanian Government may implement protest steps which would harm bilateral relations. He confirmed that 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, the Jordanian UN envoy, is participating in the activity of the Arab group which is aimed at convening the UNSC to discuss the land confiscation issue. Abu-'Awdah is taking part in the drafting of the Arab appeal, which will the Jordanian Government to convince its public to support the peace treaty and normalization with Israel. "I think this will subject the peace process to doubts and distrust and will not help us implement the process at the public level." Al-Kabariti said that the decision regarding land confiscation in East Jerusalem caused great perplexity and difficulty for Jordan, because King Husayn regards himself as responsible for the Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem, a function which is anchored in the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement. "We are very perplexed. We signed a peace agreement with you and we want to spread and bolster the spirit of peace in the region; we want the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement to be a cornerstone for a comprehensive and just peace, whereas now we see that the Israeli Government is not showing a minimum of sensitivity for East Jerusalem and is behaving as though it wants to embarrass Jordan and put the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement under test."

Al-Kabariti defined the East Jerusalem land confiscation decision as "an unwise and a severely ill-timed decision."

The Jordanian foreign minister explained that the Jordanian Government was particularly embarrassed by the confiscation decision because it was made so close to the meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn in al-'Aqabah, and to King Husayn's appearance before the parliament, where he firmly defended the peace agreement and called on the house members to clearly support peace and normalization between the Jordanian and Israeli people by legislating laws to that effect. "How can the king now ask Parliament to abrogate the boycott laws against Israel (which contradict the peace treaty), while the entire Jordanian public believes Israel is violating treaties (with Jordan and the Palestinians) by confiscating land in Jerusalem? The Jordanian Government cannot remain silent and inactive in light of this. The Israeli Government must not assume that just because Jordan wants peace, it will permit Israel to carry out archaeological excavations (in the Western Wall area, which the Arabs believe are endangering the Temple Mount mosques); confiscate land (in Jerusalem), and establish settlements (in the territories), without the Jordanian Government taking any action in return."

The Jordanian foreign minister accused the Israeli Government of trying to intentionally embarrass the Jordanian Government and test its commitment to the peace treaty by the East Jerusalem land confiscation, just as it had embarrassed the Egyptian Government after the signing of the Camp David Accords by launching the Lebanon War.

Throughout the interview he emphasized the sensitive nature of the Jerusalem issue for the Arabs in particular and Muslims in general — because of its holiness for Muslims. He stressed that Israel's decision harms Jordan in particular, seeing that the Hashemite royal house is responsible for the Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem. Al-Kabariti said that in this context, Jordan also gravely regards the excavations carried out by Israel near the Western Wall, because they endanger the mosques and other holy Muslim sites on the Temple Mount, and Jordan regards itself obliged to warn about this.

The Jordanian foreign minister claims that the confiscation of land in East Jerusalem also contradicts the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. "Our position is clear: if the interim arrangement (between Israel and the Palestinians) is aimed at raising the level of confidence and implementing steps which would make it easier to enter the permanent stage negotiations, then it is obvious that both sides must implement confidence-building measures. Israel is now losing credibility because of delaying the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians under the pretext that the latter are not implementing enough security measures (against terrorism). Israel is now, under pressure of the upcoming elections, implementing steps (in Jerusalem) which contradict the agreements, and this too harms its credibility."

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Al-Kabariti expressed bewilderment about the fact that the Israeli Government is acting this way in Jerusalem, since he is convinced the government is aware of the sensitive nature of the Jerusalem issue for Muslims and Christians, not only Jews. The Jordanian foreign minister said that the Israeli Government's insensitivity to international and Arab public opinion disturbs the Jordanian Government. He urged the Israeli Government not to concentrate so much on Jewish history, rather to show more concern for the future of peace.

Al-Kabariti: Israeli Acts Similar to Lebanon Invasion

MM1005125895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Al-Kabariti: Israeli Measures Remind Us of Invasion of Lebanon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said yesterday that recent Israeli measures — namely excavations beneath holy Islamic and Christian sites, the confiscation of land, and the building of settlements — after the signing of the agreements "remind us of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon after the signing of the Camp David accords."

He expressed his hope that "the Israelis' intention is not to embarrass the supporters of peace in the region." He warned that, if trust between Israel and the Arab parties is allowed to be shaken, the peace process as whole will be shaken." He stressed that "the Israelis must remember that Jordan is still responsible for the holy sites" in occupied Jerusalem, as specified in the peace treaty.

Al-Kabariti revealed to AL-HAYAH that the message delivered to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Marwan al-Mu'ashshir "urges Israel to shoulder its responsibility for the potential consequences of its recent measures," which he described as "a clear violation of the stipulations of the agreements concluded between Israel and both Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, and the spirit of the peace process." He added that these measures and their timing are causing "embarrassment for all the parties concerned with the peace process."

At another level, the Jordanian minister said that he signed yesterday a proposal espoused by Jordan and a number of Nonaligned states, including Indonesia, Nigeria, and Malaysia, stipulating that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty be extended for 25 years, provided it is reviewed every five years. He pointed out that the aim of the periodical revision "is to allow the achievement of the principles contained in the Nonaligned conference document, to prepare for negotiations between Israel and some Arab states in order to achieve Israel's adherence to the treaty and to subject its nuclear programs to international inspection, and to seek to establish an area free from mass-destruction weapons in the Middle East."

As is known, the United States urged Jordan to support an unlimited extension of the treaty during the visit to Jordan last week by Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations. Al-Kabariti expected international efforts to be made to arrive at "a unanimous compromise" without any need to resort to voting.

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Fadlallah Discusses Islam, 'Resistance,' Peace

NC0905114095 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic
5 May 95 p 10

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Najwa Marun in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Marun] Why are fingers pointed at Muslim fundamentalists whenever a bombing occurs anywhere in the world, as in the recent Oklahoma City bombing? Who are the Muslim fundamentalists?

[Fadlallah] [passage omitted] It is natural that the Americans do not want a movement that has deep roots in the region's and nation's history to develop. They fear that a movement that views the issue of freedom from a religious perspective might threaten their interests. Activist Muslims interpret the monotheistic concept as rejectionist because it has a positive element and a negative one. The positive element is recognition of one God and the negative element is rejecting the other gods that were created by people. Hence there is a plan to destroy this movement, distort its image, and subject it to a media, political, or security blockade. I believe that the United States is fighting the Islamic movement today in the same way in which it fought the pan-Arab movement led by [former Egyptian president] 'Abd-al- Nasir. An examination of the political lexicon once used by the pan-Arab movement shows that it is—with some differences—the same lexicon used by the Islamic movement. [passage omitted]

Bombings are the work of the CIA. When we accused the CIA of the Bi'r al-'Abd [in Beirut] bombing designed to assassinate me and in which 80 people—including unborn babies, infants, women, old and young men—died, our accusation was not arbitrary. William Casey's memoirs explained this very clearly and were published in THE WASHINGTON POST and also in Bob Woodward's book "Veil."

Zionism has now started a process of bombing institutions and public centers. We know that the Jews, in the early days of their occupation of Palestine, bombed the King David Hotel. Additionally there is violence in Ireland and other places. Nevertheless, there is a Zionist-U.S. plan to give the U.S. public and the Western and world public as a whole the impression that the Islamists are behind all violent acts. On examination, however, we find that the violent acts carried out by Islamists are defensive and preemptive and are not isolated from their natural security and political circumstances. We conclude, therefore, that there is a plan to destroy and distort the Islamic movement. When the Americans discovered that the people responsible for the Oklahoma bombing were U.S. citizens, they had a very severe shock. I have learned from some reports that U.S. journalists are feeling very confused because they gave themselves the liberty to speak about Islamic or Arab terrorism. I believe that the issue is part of a campaign designed to destroy—by media, political, or security onslaughts—every movement that resists global arrogance. [passage omitted]

[Marun] In your opinion, where do the negotiations stand now?

[Fadlallah] I believe that Israel does not want to concede anything that will allow Syria to emerge with its nationalist or pan-Arab vigor intact. In all its negotiations with the Arabs, Israel always seeks to be the winner. It rejects balance. [passage omitted]

The problem between the Arabs and Israel is that Israel wants to negotiate with the Arabs from a superior position. It wants to undermine Arab pride and vigor and wants the Arabs to think that Israel is giving them a lot when it accepts peace with them. We have noticed this attitude in the U.S. handling of these matters. They constantly tell the Arabs that they must make concessions so that Israel will accept peace and so that it can persuade its public to accept peace with the Arabs. The issue is made to look as if we are the aggressors and the Israelis are the victims who must be persuaded to accept coexistence with the aggressors. This is the opposite of the truth.

[Marun] Where does Lebanon stand in negotiations?

[Fadlallah] In my view, the stage is not one of Lebanese-Israeli negotiations.

[Marun] Where does the south stand?

[Fadlallah] The south is the constantly moving arena that stays active to partially curb the Israeli might whenever an Israeli soldier falls or is wounded during the [Islamic] Resistance strikes, an Israeli vehicle is destroyed, and the South Lebanese Army is afflicted with chaos and confusion.

For its men, the Resistance is a signal to defeat the Jewish spirit that is already working to destroy the Arab and Islamic spirit. The mujahidin look at resistance as a message that deals with the issues the nation is facing in the peak its might as it looks into its future spiritually and physically. Because if the nation loses its spirit it will only see its future under the dust. However, the nation that has spiritual power can reach peaks, even after a long while, because it is ambitious and youthful. Resistance for mujahidin is something that relates to their faith and their confidence that they can inflict losses on the Israeli Army.

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Politically speaking, the Resistance represents the strong position that Arabs, primarily Syria, can use to exert pressure on the political reality Israel wants to tamper with. At the international level, the Resistance can be the point of dispute in many issues related sometimes to the Arab reality and others to the Iranian reality. It puts pressure on that reality through a Resistance operation that crosses the borders or a position that confuses the settlement situation.

Therefore, I believe that the Resistance will remain, at least until negotiations are over, because there is more than one element that imposes it.

[Marun] How do you understand peace with Israel and is there a difference between peace and normalization?

[Fadlallah] I do not think that what is happening between the Arabs and Israel can be called peace. Peace must evolve from the depth of cultural and spiritual existence and through intercommunication among the people. We believe that the legacy the Arab-Israeli relations accumulated over history has created a big problem in the hearts of both Arabs and Jews. Within every Arab there is an inner rejection of reconciliation with Israel. If it were not for the impasse they try to imply to force relations with Israel on Arab men, no Arab would have approved of that reconciliation.

Equally, Jews reject conciliation with Arabs. Opinion polls show the Israelis' rejection of withdrawal from the Golan or conciliation on the basis of concessions to Arabs. They look down on Arabs. Peace means looking to others in a natural way. Therefore, I believe that it is hard to achieve peace between Arabs and Jews. They will revive the dispute by their negative practices that will act against Arab interests. [passage omitted]

[Marun] Do we understand from this that negotiations will produce no results?

[Fadlallah] I think that there are political results at the top rather than at the root level. In other words, they are the result of an agreement at the rulers level and not at the grassroots level. The Arab people were not consulted about a settlement. King Husayn promised a referendum on the settlement but went back on his promise. Equally, neither 'Arafat nor al-Sadat consulted their people on the conciliation. In most cases, the Arab people do not exist.

Therefore, they will achieve results. I can assure you that the settlement will be done. But it will not take root in the hearts of the people. There is a difference between a settlement the nation wants and a settlement the rulers make without involving the nation. The reality in the Arab world is that the ruler excludes the people. [passage omitted]

[Marun] If a political settlement is attained, as you say is going to happen, is there a way of rejecting it or refraining from going along with it?

[Fadlallah] We will try to do what the Jews did for hundreds of years to reach Palestine. We will try to get to Jerusalem even if it takes a long time. The important thing is to have the will to try, a clear idea of our objective, and faith in our humanity. Faith in our humanity does not preclude having faith in the humanity of the other party, to the degree that it is also human. We have no problems with Jews as a people with a religion, although we have a few things to say about Judaism. Nevertheless we strongly oppose the Jews and refuse to make peace with them because they have wronged the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples and because they want to persist in their injustice and their occupation of the land whose inhabitants have been expelled from it. We oppose injustice whether it is carried out by a Muslim, Christian, Jew, atheist, or any person. This is why we reject reconciliation with them and will continue to tell the people that in Haifa there is a Palestinian house inhabited by a Jew and that a Palestinian is living in Sidon's 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp because they do not want him to return to his land. The United States does not want him to return, the Europeans are doing nothing to help him return, and the Arabs have stopped trying to make him return. It is a persistent injustice that passes from one generation to the other. A time must come when we will be strong. Despair means death; we want to live. [passage omitted]

[Marun] Do you believe that your life is still being threatened?

[Fadlallah] According to the information I have, I believe that I am being threatened now more than ever before. However, my motto is: Let them plot and plan and God will plot and plan; God is the best planner [Koranic verse]. Imam 'Ali had a famous saying: "Let fate be my guard."

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India

Reportage on Clashes, Fire in Kashmir Valley

'Militants' Shooting at Forces

BK1005134995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In the Kashmir Valley, about 800 houses and 200 shops were gutted in the fire which engulfed three localities of Charar Sharif town. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the fire has now been completely put off and the rescue and relief operations are in full swing. The local residents have condemned the militants for this act. The people also visited the affected localities today to salvage the belongings from the debris.

Meanwhile, the militants holed up in the Charar Sharif are continuously firing, but the security forces are exercising restraint despite the provocation of the militants. An official handout says that some militants died in yesterday's firing. An official spokesman in Srinagar refuted the reports published in a section of the press blaming the Army for the Charar Sharif incident and termed the charges as malicious and concocted. He said the government has received information that the foreign militants holed up in the shrine are trying to destroy the holy shrine. They have also taken the local militants as captive whose condition is reported to be deteriorating. [passage omitted]

Legislators Demand Explanation

BK1005103795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government will make a statement in the Lok Sabha on the fire incidents in houses near Charar Sharif in Kashmir. Responding to the demands of the members during zero hour today, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, said the center is pondering over the matter.

Earlier, raising the issue, Mr. Sharad Yadav, Janata Dal, wanted to know from the government about the situation in and around the holy shrine. He said whenever there is a talk about restoring of democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir such incidents occur. Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], supporting the Janata Dal leader, said more than 300 houses have been gutted in the fire which broke out the day before. He said government should explain why such an incident took place in the presence of security forces in the area.

Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhury, CPI-M [Communist Party of India- Marxist], said government should clarify the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir with the specific mention of action taken by the government to check such incidents. Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, Samata Party, demanding a judicial inquiry into the incident, said efforts should be made to rehabilitate those who suffered because of the incident.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, said a parliamentary delegation should be sent to Jammu and Kashmir to study the situation there. Mr. Bogendra Jha, CPI [Communist Party of India], alleged the incident occurred because of failure of security mechanism. He said the process of restoring democratic institutions in the state should not be disturbed because of such incidents. He demanded firm and stern action against disruptive forces in the state.

In Kashmir Valley, 500 houses and 100 shops were gutted in the Charar Sharif fire. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the fire has been completely gutted [as heard] off. Meanwhile, the local residents whose houses have been gutted have widely condemned the act of arson committed by foreign mercenaries holed up in the holy shrine of Charar Sharif. A large number of residents have visited the barren localities to salvage their belongings. The adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General M.A. Zaki, and other senior officials today visited the town and supervised the relief measures undertaken by the government. Further details are awaited.

The CPI-M general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, has said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not conducive to holding elections. Speaking to newsmen in Agartala today, he said the center should start a dialogue with extremist groups in Kashmir who have already announced to shun violence.

Leaders Condemn 'Terrorists'

BK1105074795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has strongly condemned the barbarous act of destruction of the holy Charar Sharif shrine by terrorists and foreign mercenaries on the holy day of 'Id al-Adha.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said it has been committed by agents of forces inimical to the return of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the terrorists, while desecrating the sanctity of holy places of worship, have totally disregarded the sentiments of the people of Kashmir. The prime minister said the Center and the state governments have all along adopted a policy of great restraint to save the holy shrine despite provocations from the evil-minded militants. He appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere to remain peace-

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ful and defeat the nefarious designs behind the heinous crime.

The governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has expressed grief and anguish over the destruction of the shrine and appealed to the people to maintain peace and not to be misled by rumors. The burning down of the holy shrine has been widely condemned by the leaders of several political parties from the state. In separate statements, they also appealed to the people to remain calm and maintain communal harmony. The leaders said the militants have committed the heinous crime out of frustration and at the instigation of Pakistan. They said it has exposed the designs of terrorists. The leaders include the PCC-I [Pradesh Congress-I Committee] chief, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar; Mr. Mangat Ram Sharma, Mr. R.S. Chibb, Pirzada Mohammad Sayeed, Mr. Dharampal Sharma, and Mr. Madan Lal Sharma.

The Janata Dal has strongly condemned the setting on fire of the holy shrine. Party General Secretary Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan said the act appeared to be a challenge by the militants to the government's efforts to initiate democratic process and hold elections in the troubled state. He said it is also a failure of the intelligence agencies and demanded that government come out with full facts about the persons responsible for the reprehensible act.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened throughout the state. Curfew has been clamped in Srinagar, Baramula, Anantnag, Chadura, Badgam, and Sopor as a precautionary measure. Police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in major towns.

As reported, the foreign mercenaries holed up in Charar Sharif burned down the holy shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali at 0230 [2100 GMT] this morning. They have also set on fire a khanqah [convent], a mosque, and some more houses in adjoining areas. According to an official spokesman, the militants also prevented the fire tenders from extinguishing the blaze by firing at them. The militants have laid improvised explosive devices on all the routes leading to the shrine.

'Foreign Mercenaries' Blamed

BK1105030295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir valley, foreign mercenaries have set on fire the holy shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali at Charar Sharif, and khanqah [convent], and the mosque adjacent to it.

An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent this morning that in a desperate attempt, the foreign mercenaries also set on fire some more houses in the nearby Gulshanabad locality. The spokesman stated that militants also fired on six fire tenders which were kept ready to extinguish any fire.

According to an army spokesman, the militants set the shrine on fire at about 0230 [2100 GMT] this morning. The militants have extensively laid improvised explosive devices on all the routes leading to the shrine.

Meanwhile, a curfew has been clamped in Srinagar, Baramula, Anantnag, Chadura, Badgam, and Sopor as a precautionary measure. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has expressed grief and anguish over the desecration of the shrine by foreign mercenaries. He has appealed to the people to maintain peace and tranquillity and not to be misled by rumors. Further details are awaited.

Pakistani 'Hired Agents' Accused

BK1105124995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 11 (AFP) — India accused Pakistan on Thursday [11 May] of engineering the destruction of an Islamic shrine in the disputed territory of Kashmir and issued a strong warning against interference in its internal affairs.

"Pakistan has once again proved its devilish interference in the internal affairs of our country," Internal Security Minister Rajesh Pilot said in an unusually strongly worded statement issued here.

He accused "hired agents" of Pakistan of setting fire to a 650-year-old shrine in the Kashmiri town of Charar Sharif in a pre-dawn clash between Indian troops and Muslim separatist guerrillas.

"When all our efforts are being made to bring normalcy to the state, the hired agents of Pakistani forces have not even spared a holy shrine," Pilot said.

The security minister said India would be forced to retaliate if Pakistan does not stop interfering in its internal affairs.

"India has demonstrated its might in the past and Pakistan should know better," Pilot said of the three wars fought between the South Asian rivals since independence from British rule in 1947.

Two of the wars were over Kashmir, two-thirds of which are held by India and one-third by Pakistan.

Pilot said that "the only unfinished task in India-Pakistan relations is the vacation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"If Pakistan does not stop interference in the internal affairs of our country, we shall have no option but to accomplish the unfinished task," he said.

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India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Muslim militants in Kashmir. Islamabad denies the allegations but extends moral and diplomatic backing to what it describes as a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

More than 11,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since the anti-Indian rebellion turned violent in 1989.

Editorial Backs BJP Stand on 'Nuclear Options'

BK1105033395 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 May 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Keeping N-Options"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The proposed BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] resolution to record parliament's endorsement of India's national position of not renouncing its nuclear options merits total political support. The resolution is also timely. The New York conference on the review amd extension of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty (NPT) is in its last phase,when the voting procedure is going to be decided upon. This is even more important than the final outcome itself. Through hectic diplomacy, not unmixed with arm-twisting,the United-States and its allies have apparently managed to secure a simple majority of NPT signatories, which is only 90, to ensure an unconditional and indefinite extension of the treaty. It is now the weapons powers effort to mobilise as many of the total of 178 members to sign on the dotted line as possible, to claim great moral authority for the treaty. For this purpose, they want open voting while a large number of nonaligned countries which have reservations about an unconditional and indefinite extension prefer the secret ballot. The resolution in the Indian Parliament coincides with the finalisation of the voting procedure. Since India refused to accept even an observer's status for the NPT review conference, its message to the many undecided and coerced NAM [Nonaligned Movement] countries should be made more effectively from the parliamentary platform than through diplomatic channels. If the final voting is not overwhelmingly in favour of the nuclear weapons powers, they would suffer a serious moral setback.

That is the best that rejectors of the NPT can hope for at this stage. Meanwhile, India should work out its strategy for the post-NPT conference period. It is certain to experience renewed pressure to agree to at least a regional system of denuclearisation for South Asia. India's ability to withstand external pressure would increase enormously if its position on keeping nuclear options is seen as solidly that of the entire nation, and not of the government of the day. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has wisely decided to keep the charge of the Defence portfolio to himself. He has thus undertaken not to compromise on the continuance of either India's nuclear programme or that of missile development and deployment. It is quite obvious that India alone (and, neither Pakistan nor Israel) can induce a serious thinking among the weapons States to make a commitment about total and verifiable nuclear disarmament. At the other end of the spectrum, reluctant signatories can take heart from India's determined stance to consider at a later stage whether to walk out of the NPT unless the weapons States make palpable moves for disarmament. After all, the NPT only obliges its signatories not to acquire nuclear weapons or weapons technology; it cannot prevent a State from renouncing its NPT membership.

Commentary on Reported U.S. Tritium Production

BK1105122795 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 6 May 95 p 5

[From the "Global Watch" column by K. Subrahmanyam: "US and tritium production"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The latest reports from the US indicate that the country is planning to construct a new billion-dollar facility for production of tritium — the heavy isotope of hydrogen. Tritium is used in making the trigger for nuclear weapons, in thermo-nuclear weapons and to boost the explosive yield of fission weapons.

Tritium has a very short half life. Its radioactivity decays and comes down to half in about 12 years. Therefore, if production of tritium is discontinued over a period of time, the nuclear weapons will have to be reduced. There are alternatives available, like using polonium as was done in the early weapons. But that is not as good as using tritium. The American arms control used to argue that the tritium which have already been stockpiled, will last into 2020 AD, especially since they were reducing their weapons.

The present report, initially disclosed by the Greenpeace and subsequently confirmed by the WASHINGTON POST, would tend to indicate that the American plan is to maintain a larger arsenal, and for an indefinite period of time. This is not surprising since it tallies with their nuclear policy review, counter-proliferation strategy and above all their insistence on coercing the international community to legitimise the most horrendous weapon of mass destruction — the nuclear weapons — in perpetuity in the extension conference on the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty].

In other words, the US President, Mr Bill Clinton's joint declaration with the Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha

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Rao, about the ultimate goal being a nuclear weapon free world will have to be taken with a pinch of salt. The American media presumably understood this position clearly and hence totally ignored the Rao-Clinton statement though that was the first and only occasion when the US President had committed himself to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world. The proposed plant for tritium speaks louder than all the US declaratory statements.

This plan which is indicative of the US intention to perpetuate its nuclear arsenal should also be considered with two other factors. There is a further report that when the Americans talk of reducing their arsenal to 3,500 warheads by the year 2003, they exclude from that the reserve stockpile of 5,000 warheads they propose to keep. In addition there will be a few hundreds of tactical nuclear weapons.

Secondly, the Americans have been wanting to exempt hydro nuclear tests for a few kilograms of explosive yields in laboratories, from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. There are fears that these exemptions are meant to enable the Americans to develop mini, tiny and micro nuclear warheads which can be used without causing a lot of collateral damage.

In other words, the Americans have no intentions of giving up or meaningfully reducing their nuclear arsenals. Once they succeed in coercing the international community to legitimise their possession, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons in perpetuity, they can afford to ignore the international public opinion — apparently a game plan of the Clinton administration.

In these circumstances and given the increased western propaganda rhetoric on the Chinese threat one wonders whether the Chinese will go along with the Americans on the comprehensive test ban and weapon grade fissile materials production cut off. They have always maintained that they want an appropriate equation in arsenals with the West. Since most of the Chinese missiles are of short and medium range one should expect them to focus on long range missile development. The Chinese have turned down the Japanese request to stop testing and given the American ambivalence on the nuclear issue they cannot be criticised for their stand.

In India, while continuing support for the comprehensive test ban and weapon grade fissile materials production cut off, we should not take it for granted that these are likely to be achieved, free of loopholes. The record of nuclear weapon power should put us on our guard. India should, therefore maximise its stockpile of weapon grade fissile materials before the treaty is concluded and should intensify the R&D for laboratory scale testing of nuclear explosions in hydro-nuclear experiments. A world in which the entire international community is being bullied into legitimising the most horrendous weapon of mass destruction in the hands of five nations is not a safe world. We have to be on our guard.

Iran

Views on U.S.-Russian Talks on Ties to Iran

Commentary on Clinton's Accusations

NC1005162295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 9 May 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Clinton's Remarks on Russia's Cooperation With Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Clinton has again commented on his effort to obstruct the cooperation between Moscow and Tehran on the sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran. He accused Tehran of trying to produce nuclear arms. Arguing that the cooperation between Moscow and Tehran has created a nuclear threat, he said: I am convinced that Russia, considering the history of Iran, will want to obstruct that country's effort to acquire nuclear arms.

Obviously, U.S. officials have tried to obstruct Iran's initiatives in various ways. They have put forward unfounded propaganda claims against Tehran and threatened several countries. However, it seems that the United States has decided to put pressure on Moscow now. That is because Russia and Iran are influential countries that have a special economic, political, and geographic place in the region. It is common knowledge that the Western countries regard them as the main doors to the Eastern world and markets. In fact, they will be two of the strongest economic and political powers in the world in the future.

The U.S. officials want to put pressure on Russia by promising economic aid to Moscow. They are convinced that they will be able to persuade the Russian officials to adjust their foreign relations and programs to comply with the Western world's interests. However, the truth lies on the other side of the coin. The Russians are well aware of the importance of their national interests and political stability.

The United States has promised to give approximately $350 million to Russia in the form of economic aid in 1996. The U.S. threat to suspend its aid will encourage Moscow to sell its nuclear technology. That will definitely provide larger funds for Russia. Meanwhile, Moscow is aware that Washington has agreed to sell nuclear reactors to the DPRK. The reactors will be similar to those Russia plans to sell to Iran. However, Washington has moved to convince Moscow to end its nuclear

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cooperation with Iran. That is a conflicting state of affairs in U.S. policy. Meanwhile, it must be recalled that Washington has supported Israel's nuclear strategy. All that will create problems for Washington in the effort it makes to achieve its objectives.

Undoubtedly, Washington will realize that Moscow is not a place where it can easily achieve its objectives.

Va'ezi: Clinton 'Achieved No Success'

NC1105085295 Paris AFP in English
0702 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tehran, May 11 (AFP)—Iran on Thursday [11 May] hailed US President Bill Clinton's "failure" to pressure Russia into cancelling nuclear cooperation with the Islamic republic.

Iranian deputy foreign minister Mahmud Va'ezi told the official Iranian news agency IRNA that his "impression" from remarks made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during a joint press conference with Clinton Wednesday "is that Russia would go ahead with a contract for peaceful" energy cooperation with Iran.

"Clinton has achieved no success," in pressuring Moscow to stop "the transfer of nuclear technology to Iran," said Va'ezi, who is on a visit to Kazakhstan.

Washington accuses Iran of sponsoring terrorism and seeking nuclear weapons, which Tehran denies.

The US administration launched a campaign ahead of the summit to pressure Russia to scrap a deal to sell Iran a light-water nuclear reactor and a gas centrifuge.

Yeltsin announced Wednesday that he had agreed to drop the "military part" of the deal with Iran concerning the gas centrifuge which the United States said could enable Tehran to produce nuclear weapons.

Moscow signed an agreement with Iran in 1993 to complete a power plant in the southern port of Bushehr, left unfinished by Germany after the 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Va'ezi made no reference to the cancellation of the centrifuge, but said using the term "military makes no sense because the Bushehr station has no military application."

He stressed that Iran was a signatory to the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty and the deal with Russia was made in line with international regulations such as the NPT.

The planned Russian delivery of the nuclear reactor to Iran is to be examined by a bilateral commission which will report back to the US and Russian leaders.

Va'ezi said the commission could "take away any excuse from the United States" for opposing the deal.

"What we expect of Russia is to complete a nuclear power station for peaceful use of energy," he said. [passage omitted]

Official: Russia Rejects U.S. Pressure

LD1105125195 Tehran IRNA in English
1235 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Reza Amrollahi said here on Thursday [11 May] that Russian officials proved their resolve to save national prestige through withstanding U.S. pressure to stop nuclear cooperation with Iran.

In an interview with IRNA, Amrollahi said the U.S. failed to force Russia to cancel a contract with Iran on selling nuclear reactors.

He said Russia announced its commitment to the contract and said that it will go ahead with nuclear cooperation in conformity to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He strongly denied that iran had demanded a centrifuge to enrich uranium and added the contract did not include such an equipment. Amrollahi said no talks were held with Russians on buying a centrifuge.

Amrollahi said Israel refrains from signing the Non-proliferation Treaty and whenever extension of the treaty is debated at international level, the Americans engage in a controversy against Iran in a bid to support the Zionist regime which pays no respect to the international regulations.

He said Iran as a signatory to the treaty and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is in favours of a Middle East free from nuclear arms.

He emphasized that Iran's contract with Russians to complete the Bushehr power plant was in accord with the NPT.

The secretary-general and other officials of IAEA have said over 20 times that Iranian nuclear programs are for peaceful purpose, he said.

He also dismissed allegation of buying 500 kgs of uranium from Kazakhstan and said Iran's nuclear organization has not bought one dollar worth of such material from Kazakhstan.

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Envoy Stresses No Military Motives

LD1105143995 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, May 11, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Moscow, Mehdi Safari, here on Thursday [11 May] rejected that the contract between Iran and Russia had a military component and said Russia will go ahead with completing the Bushehr power plant.

Asked about his views on the summit in Moscow between President Yeltsin and President Clinton, he said the main issue with the summit was delivery of nuclear reactors something which President Boris Yeltsin described as being in comformity with the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He pointed to President Yeltsin's statement that if the contract between Iran and Russia comprised a military part, the (maybe) military part will be cancelled and said the contract between the two countries is on completing Bushehr power plant and has no military part.

Iranian ambassador said Russian officials have given him definite assurances that the contract will be carried out.

He described the negotiations between Russian officials with that of the U.S. on Wednesday as positive and said Russian Federation will not compromise its relations with Iran, a neighbour state enjoying hundreds of years of relations.

Safari said Russian officials have once again termed Iran as Russia's strategic partner in the region.

On supplying Russian officials with secret documents on Russia-Iran nuclear cooperation, Safari said, "We are glad the so-called documents were handed over to Russian officials, because it conveys nothing except the imaginary illusions of the U.S. and the CIA officials.

He emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not after nuclear technology for military purpose and the new desperate U.S. attempts are doomed as the previous ones.

Commentary on Clinton-Yeltsin Talks

NC1105064395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 11 May 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton will end his visit to Russia today. As part of his visit to the former Soviet Union, he will visit the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

During his stay in Moscow, the U.S. President participated in ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and also held talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Topping the list of topics at the Moscow talks were the expansion of NATO and Russia's adherence to the NATO peace participation plan, the Chechnya crisis, and the sale of nuclear reactors for electricity generation to Iran. But in this midst the U.S. delegation showed more sensitivity toward the issue of the completion of the Bushehr Power Plant.

Before talks between the heads of the two countries began, the Russian and U.S. foreign ministers, advisers, and experts held detailed talks aimed at encouraging the Russians to abandon their plans for cooperation with Iran. The talks ended without results and the discussion emerged again during the talks between the two heads of state.

The program of the visit envisaged only one hour of talks between the two presidents. But at Clinton's insistence and within the framework of efforts to encourage the Russian Government to cancel the Iranian-Russian nuclear cooperation agreement, the talks lasted four hours.

Afterward Yeltsin and Clinton participated in a news conference and gave more details on the talks. As expected, the Russian president stressed the credibility of the Tehran-Moscow agreement and clarified for the umpteenth time that Iranian-Russian nuclear cooperation is nonmilitary and peaceful. At the same time the two sides agreed that a commission consisting of the Russian prime minister and the U.S. vice president be set up to examine the issue. The commission's report will be on the agenda of the talks that will be held between the two heads during the G-7 session in Halifax, Canada, and at the UN General Assembly in November.

Political experts believe the Russian Government's stance on U.S. interference in Russia's relations with Iran is a clear example of Moscow's independent vote and its efforts to regain Moscow's international role. These experts believe that Russia's stance is important, since, by resisting U.S. pressure, Russia has upset Washington's monopolistic position in the so-called preservation of international peace and security, and—as a permanent UN Security Council member—it has discredited the U.S. definition of international relations and cooperation among the various countries.

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Offical Warns U.S. Over Plan To Move Embassy

LD1105095595 Tehran IRNA in English
0912 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA — Majles Deputy Seyyed Jalal Sadatian Wednesday [10 May] warned the United States that the Muslim world would not remain silent if the U.S. Embassy be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Sadatian in an interview with the morning daily 'IRAN NEWS' said pressure on the part of the U.S. Congress urging the White House to move its embassy to Jerusalem, is a deliberate measure against Islam and its people who term Jerusalem as 'Beyt ol-Moqaddas' or the holy home, and consider it as one of the hightest of holy locations.

"If the United States succeeds in moving its embassy to Beyt ol- Moqaddas, it will further tarnish its credibility (among Muslim nations who are increasingly skeptical of America's good will)," warned Sadatian.

Sadatian, Majles deputy from Hamadan, western Iran, who is also a member of the Majles Foreign Affairs Commission, added that the U.S. would surely receive an angry reaction from the world Muslims if it bows to the congressional pressure.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Robert Dole said on Monday he and other leading members of the Congress would introduce legislation mandating transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Pointing to this fact that Dole has already announced his candidacy for the upcoming presidential elections in the States, Sadatian charged that this republican move "is nothing but a gesture that is aimed to please the Zionist oriented voters for the upcoming presidential election."

Sadatian asserted that Israel last week caused an uproar in the Muslim world by announcing its decision to confiscate land for Jewish settlements in Jerusalem, the land that the Zionist army annexed from the Arab lands in 1967. "The embassy move would simply indicate that the United States recognizes Israel's claim on the holy city."

Radio on U.S. Tolerance of 'Zionist' Influence

LD0605165295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1003 GMT 6 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's prime minister, will leave for the United States today [as heard]. The visit is taking place as part of the policy of continually dispatching senior Israeli officials to the United States. In the past two months an Israeli official has visited the United States almost once a week. The last of those was Shim'on Peres, the Zionist regime's foreign minister, who visited Washington last week.

Political experts believe that there are several reasons for the increase in visits to the United States by senior Israeli officials. First, the continual visits by the Zionist regime's high-ranking officials to the United States have taken place at the same time as the New York session for reviewing the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms. They most certainly cannot be unrelated to that. The Zionist regime is under great pressure regarding its nuclear activities, and because of the insistence of the Arab governments concerning the signing of the treaty by that regime, Tel Aviv is in need of further U.S. support. Although the coordination of Tel Aviv and the White House so far has alleviated some of the pressure, it has further revealed the double standard in U.S. foreign policy.

Second, Tel Aviv, exploiting the Zionist pressure groups [goruh- ha-ye nofuz-e sehyunisti] in the United States and its own constant presence in Washington, is trying to influence White House decisions even more and utilize them as tools to settle its international scores and gain its objectives. That policy can be seen quite clearly in the false accusations levelled at Middle Eastern Muslims concerning their involvement in the Oklahoma bombing, as well as efforts to intensify economic sanctions against Iran.

Third, in its negotiations with Syria for the settlement of the bilateral dispute and ending of the Middle East crisis, Israel has faced defeat so far. The regime's recent diplomatic effort to elevate the level of representation in the Washington talks from ambassador to chiefs of staff has so far failed to achieve anything. Since the government ruling in Tel Aviv sees such a compromise as a lever to regain power during next year's elections, Rabin and the Labour Party are trying to bring negotiations with Syria to a speedy conclusion, with U.S. support. Up till now Syria has been stressing the need for a legal framework and insists that the Middle East crisis be resolved on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions. But the Zionist regime has always tried, by suggesting political frameworks, to surround the compromise in ambiguity and finalize it to its own advantage.

Political experts believe that if the United States sets aside legal frameworks in the settlement of the Middle East crisis and adopts Israel's point of view totally, this reality — that a great proportion of White House policies is subordinate to Tel Aviv decisions — will

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become even clearer than before. Then it is not certain whether the U.S. people, as providers of the U.S. budget, will tolerate the susceptibility of the current policies of their country to the Zionist regime's influence.

International Seminar on Africa Held in Tehran

Opening Remarks on Relations

LD0705103795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second international seminar on Africa focusing on practical ways of expanding cooperation with North Africa began with an address by the Iranian foreign minister at the Institute for international and political studies.

Attended by African specialists from seven countries, the two-day meeting will discuss three main topics: expansion of economic relations between Iran and Africa; policies pursued by other countries in the region; and the political, economic and cultural developments of North Africa.

At the opening ceremony, our country's foreign minister spoke about the importance of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the North African countries and common religious and cultural elements between these countries.

He said that the membership of these countries in the non-alignment movement and the Organization of Islamic Conference has increased the need for cooperation between Iran and these countries in the international scene.

Emphasizing that cooperation between Iran and North African countries would guarantee the interests of the two sides, he said the cooperation would also be an important element in strengthening South-South relations. [as heard]

The foreign minister stressed the need for the active participation of the private sector in economic cooperation between Iran and North African countries and said that specialists must find practical ways of expanding relations with North Africa and that the foreign ministry would support them in this context.

Later on during the seminar, the deputy minister in charge of education and research affairs reported on the outcome of the previous seminar and the aims of the present meeting.

In the seminar's morning session specialists from Morocco, Spain, and Iran spoke about the future economic relations and the importance of relations between Iran and North Africa.

Velayati: No Problems With Egypt

LD0805212395 Tehran IRNA in English 2112 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — Iran and Egypt do not have any problem obstructing expansion of ties, Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, told reporters at the seminar on development of Iran-Africa cooperation here Sunday [7 May].

In the past years, Velayati said, Iran and Egypt have developed their ties in the economic, scientific, research and international areas despite their cold dimplomatic relations, Velayati said.

As for relations with the North African state of Algeria, he said Iran has no problem with the people of Algeria. "We hope that law and the people's wish, will finally prevail there so that the Algerian people are saved from this situation and they could really determine their future," he added.

The two-day seminar starting on Sunday, discussed prospects for cooperation between Iran and North African nations.

Velayati also called for respecting Iraq's territorial integrity.

On recent remarks by the Turkish president on northern Iraq, Velayati said, "if there has been such a comment, we regard it as a violation of security in the region."

Minister Favors Trade Expansion

LD0805205195 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — Iran's minister of commerce, Yahya ol-Eshaq said here on Monday [8 May] that expansion of trade relations with North African nations is among the priorities of Iran in business sector.

Speaking on the second day of the seminar underway in Tehran on how to boost trade relations with North African states, he said Iran has enhanced trade exchanges with many of the states in north Africa including Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Ol-Eshaq said that promoting trade cooperation with North African nations depends on various factors such as familiarity with the people of Africa, the circumstances and possibilities for trade excahnge.

He called for opening of trade centers and establishment of banking relations between Iran the north African states.

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The two-day seminar on trade with north African states opened on Sunday. Foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati attended the inaugural ceremony yesterday and delivered a speech on the goals of the seminar.

Minister on Potential for Trade

LD0805220095 Tehran IRNA in English 2133 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, may 8, IRNA — Iran's first deputy foreign minister, Mohammad Hashemi said here on Monday [8 May] that Iran is ready to moblize all its resources to upgrade cooperation with North African states.

Speaking at a seminar on Africa in Tehran, he spoke of bright prospects of economic cooperation between Iran and North African states.

Hashemi said the North African region, as a bridge linking Europe, Asia and Africa, enjoys excellent trade potential.

He hoped that experts at the seminar would come up with constructive proposals to speed up practical steps in this regard.

Iranian economic and political experts were studying investment opportunities to boost trade relations with North Africa.

The two-day seminar wound up today.

Official on Goals, Results of Seminar

NC1105101795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 May 95

[From the "News Reports" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this week the second international seminar on Africa entitled "Practical Ways To Expand Cooperation With North Africa" convened in Tehran. The seminar, which was attended by experts from North Africa and Europe, as well as by ambassadors of North African countries in Tehran, discussed ways for Iran and North Africa to cooperate.

Our political correspondent, Qoroqi, interviewed the Foreign Ministry's director general for African affairs [name not given]. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Qoroqi] What issues were discussed most and what results were obtained?

[Director general] The seminar discussed the practical means to expand cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and North African countries. It was emphasized that two areas that include Islamic, non-aligned, and developing countries should have close economic cooperation and that such cooperation will help to strengthen relations among the countries of the South.

The obstacles to this cooperation, such as the absence of air and navigation routes, the absence of banking relations, and the problem of export insurance, were discussed; the relevant officials have promised to do their best to remove or reduce these obstacles.

In the cultural field, the need to strengthen the Persian-language chairs in North African countries was stressed. As you know, universities in North African countries, especially in Egypt, have Persian-language chairs; Persian language professors in the region come from Cairo University and Egypt's 'Ayn al-Shams University. It was decided that Islamic sects should be brought closer in view of the strength of Islam in the regional countries and that efforts be made toward strengthening Islamic unity.

[Qoroqi] How effective do you think Iran's cooperation with Africa can be in meeting Iran's economic needs?

[Director general] During recent years we have had imports from North African countries, namely from Libya, Tunis, and Morocco. We have also had exports to that area through trade fairs. It seems that both sides can meet each other's import needs and use each other's markets to develop their economy. [end recording]

*Paper: Sanctions Part of U.S. Economic Strategy

95LH0119A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 6 Mar 95 p 9

[Report by Hasan Hamadah — all names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Your economic relations with Iran are hampering our strategy to fight terrorism in the world. Stop these relations or at least freeze them." This is what U.S. President Bill Clinton has told German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Kohl responded: "You are asking us to deal a blow to the German economy, while U.S. oil companies import one fourth of the Iranian crude oil. Iran has become one of our important economic partners. In 1993, it imported goods worth $2.5 billion, or double what your [as published] companies export to Iran."

This exchange between the two leaders was revealed when the U.S. State Department issued a statement in which it accused Germany, on behalf of the White House, of pursuing a hostile policy toward the United States. Kohl's response was published in the wide

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circulation newspaper DER SPIEGEL on Monday, 27 February.

There is no doubt that this exchange sums up what takes place in U.S.-German contacts. The most significant development was the heated debate that took place between Clinton and Kohl on the policy the allies should pursue to implement the "dual containment" plan. This policy has raised fears among some Western allies, such as Germany and France. According to Kohl, a boycott will deprive the West of any influence in Tehran and will cause Iran to move closer to Moscow. Although states usually outline major objectives to justify a policy that brings them economic gain, the allies have become fed up with the big slogans Washington has been raising to impose discipline on them, while it violates the rules whenever it likes to satisfy its own interests, without taking the allies' interests into consideration. Perhaps the issue of the embargo on Iraq is the best example of this U.S. policy, as expressed by Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations.

Following her visit to Britain and before leaving for the Sultanate of Oman, in the course of a tour of some "allies," to mobilize support for a resolution to extend the sanctions against Iraq, Albright said: "We have praised Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, but the issue is deeper. The UN Security Council member states must understand this . . . and understand President Clinton's message, which I am communicating to understand the seriousness of the U.S. position."

What Albright meant was that the permanent members of the UN Security Council have not yet understood the depth of the issue. The ambassador was referring to France, Russia, and China, which have called for easing the sanctions against Iraq. They did this because they were concerned about their economic interests and about the intensive contacts U.S. companies were holding with Iraq to sign economic agreements to rebuild Iraq's destroyed infrastructure, utilities, and public services. Albright's tone was threatening. She said that the main aim of her tour of some UN Security Council member states was to ensure an absolute majority for a resolution to extend the sanctions, otherwise Washington will have to use its veto right if France, Russia, and China tried to pass a resolution to change the sanctions system. The ambassador reflected her administration's fears that these states would take some sort of a move together or separately in the Security Council. For example, French Defense Minister Francois Leotard, who attacked Iraq, Libya, and Iran a few days ago in the course of defending the Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel, has again called for openness toward Iraq, "despite the dictatorship of the Iraqi regime." While his statement was made in the course of his comment on the opening of a French representation office in Baghdad, Leotard was expressing the desire of French business leaders, who have received sufficient information about the activities of their U.S. counterparts in the Iraqi capital. U.S. business leaders have been initialing contracts for major projects, which will be implemented when the sanctions are lifted. These contracts are signed through the Polish embassy, which takes care of U.S. interests in Baghdad. It is known that the staff of this embassy includes 21 diplomats and nondiplomats. Two of them are Polish, 10 carry Polish and U.S. citizenships, and nine are American. Thus, the United States has the biggest Western diplomatic mission in Iraq. This has not prevented Washington from criticizing Paris for its decision to open an office in Baghdad. The purpose of this criticism is clear: Washington does not want anyone else in Iraq.

During her visit to Muscat, foreign correspondents asked Albright about the possibility of U.S. trade missions visiting Iraq. Her reply was: "We have read reports in this regard, but they are unconfirmed. We will not trade with Iraq before it implements the Security Council's resolutions." She spoke as if she did not know what was going on at the Polish mission in Baghdad, which is difficult to believe. Unfortunately, none of the correspondents asked Albright about the role of the "Crises Cell" in securing contracts in various countries of the world, including Iraq.

First: What is this "Crises Cell?"

Its name does not express its real role. It implies strategy and defense more than economic affairs. The "Crises Cell" was established several years ago. It holds periodic meetings under the chairmanship of [?Geoffrey Kartin], Commerce Department undersecretary for international affairs, who calls his Cell a "war council," which fully suits its role and the actual economic war taking place between the United States and the rest of the major industrial states. The Cell includes president of the Export-Import Bank; president of the Overseas Investment Company; director of the Trade and Development Agency; director of the NASA space agency; officials from the National Security Council, the National Economic Council, the Interior and State Departments; and representatives of the Environment Protection Agency. In the past few weeks, the "Crises Cell" held more than 20 meetings, with President Clinton attending two of them.

Second: What is the role of the "Crises Cell" or the "war council?"

During a lecture he delivered at the Foreign Relations Council in New York last January, Geoffrey Kartin compared the role of the "Crises Cell" to a lawyer

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defending U.S. interests. He said that thanks to this Cell, the Administration puts all its weight behind the U.S. companies in their efforts to secure economic contracts abroad. The Cell manages a broad network to defend the interests of U.S. companies in the world, collects information about major projects, and conducts studies on the financing of these projects. It also sets the date and time for the intervention of the U.S. authorities to ensure that U.S. companies win the deals. The Cell uses the building of the International Trade Administration as its headquarters. It coordinates its activities with the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA.

Mrs. Albright apparently did not know about the activities of the Cell and about the lecture Kartin delivered in New York. This is at least what the ambassador wanted to indicate. However, this does not prevent the European companies from feeling deprived in view of the assistance Washington and its departments extend to the U.S. companies in the world, in general, and in Iraq, in particular. This is what has instigated the European countries to demand that the sanctions against Iraq be amended and made them reluctant to pursue the U.S. policy toward Iran.

In an attempt to rein in the Western allies, Albright made her visit to Oman and Kuwait to unite the Gulf states and use this to deter the Europeans, led by France, from undertaking any steps to amend the sanctions in the name of "easing the suffering of the Iraqi people."

This is the "depth of the issue" to which Albright has referred. She stressed President Clinton's determination not to accept any proposed amendment to the Security Council's resolutions, particularly resolutions 706 and 712.

Albright hinted at her ignorance of the decisions made by the "Crises Cell" regarding the contracts with Iraq. She also avoided saying what she knew about the Iraqi oil reserves, which reports say are much larger than the Saudi reserves and better quality. The U.S. performance on the issue of Iraq is part of its monopoly policy, in the sense that the United States wants to keep the Iraqi oil as a strategic reserve for itself only. The implications of the threats made by Albright during her visit to the Gulf can be understood against this background. Reports have started coming out about the desired role of the Iraqi oil. The oil revenues should be used to guarantee the loans that Iraq might receive to rebuild its services. No two persons disagree on who controls international loans. While Albright chose to ignore it, the big industrial states knew very well that the United States control the loans and decide the type of guarantees. Mexico's experience is just a precedent to what will happen with Iraq, according to Philip Fairliver, energy affairs analyst at Charles River Associates. With the situation being like this, no wonder German Chancellor Kohl lost his mind, and summed up, in his reaction, what is on the minds of his colleagues, the leaders of the Western industrial states.

*Commentary on Industrial Privatization

95LA0162F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Feb 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the worries that has appeared in the public's mind about transferring some government affairs to the private sector is that these measures might be applied to society's infrastructure and strategic sectors. For example, although under Part 2 of Article 44 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all large industries, parent industries, foreign commerce, large mines, banking, insurance, energy procurement, dams and water delivery networks, radio and television, post, telegraph and telephone, airlines, shipping, railroads, and the like, which are owned by the public are controlled by the government, talk is being heard more or less about transferring some of the above resources, whether officially or unofficially.

Although under Article 4 of the Charter Law for the National Iranian Oil Company enacted 10/25/1333 [4 December 1954] and Article 3 of the Oil Law enacted 4/31/1353 [22 July 1974], working in any way on oil industry affairs throughout the country and on the continental shelf is to be a monopoly for the Oil Company, there have been reports in the nation's press about transferring many petrochemical affairs and other industries affiliated with oil.

Without getting into the truth or untruth of these reports or even the rightness or wrongness of the principle of such measures, the point may be emphasized that if the basis for privatization is national development, there can be no limits to the spread of transfers. However, if privatization pursues goals other than national development, as has been seen in many Third World nations, its spread must be limited.

Transferable Sectors Under Second Five-Year Plan

In any case, privatization in the nation, which began under the government's First Five-Year Development Plan, will undoubtedly take place extensively under the government's Second Five-Year Development Plan. According to the studies and research that have been done, it has become clear that the following sectors wthat were and are government monopolies may be transferred to the private sector under certain conditions:

- The oil-making sector in the lower units of the oil-product refineries is to be removed and transferred to

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the private sector, or its shares are to be given to oil industry workers.

- Refineries, after pricing of assets and property, will be sold at the current value and managed by management companies on a commission basis, and ultimately they will become autonomous.

- It is currently possible to transfer some of the duties of the sector distributing and storing the four main products.

- Companies distributing liquid natural gas will be transferred to the private sector under the supervision of the National Iranian Oil Company.

- Some companies affiliated with the National Iranian Oil Company whose duties are parallel to those of other government and private sector companies may be transferred.

- The management of the National Iranian Oil Company's ancillary activities is to be transferred.

- The distribution sector (executive and urban network affairs) for natural gas is to be transferred to the municipalities and the private sector.

- Most service and administrative tasks of the Gas Company's design and engineering unit are to be transferred to the private sector.

- The work of installing meters and regulators and reading them will be transferred to private companies.

- Refinery companies are to be created to increase the efficiency of refinery systems and make them autonomous.

- In the electrical power distribution sector, cooperation will be sought from the non-government sector in managing and operating installations, and in sectors that remain under government control such as power plants, to the extent possible operational management will be turned over to the private sector.

- The work of building, developing, maintaining, and operating urban telephone networks and new international communications services will be transferred to the non-government sector.

- All repair and maintenance of long-distance networks will be transferred to the non-government sector.

- Some postal services will be transferred.

- Some affairs pertaining to fishing and the organizations for sugar cubes and sugar and tea and grain will be transferred.

- Some activities pertaining to the copper and aluminum industries will be transferred.

Experts consider the most important reason for transferring the above sectors to the private sector to be the government's inability to make best use of their resources and the consequent waste of national capital. They believe that in theory the government incurs extra expenses as a producing center, and that because of its bureaucratic nature it cannot and will not allow services and products to be produced economically and at the lowest cost. These experts believe the root of this malady to be the weak efficiency of government projects.

Views of Majles Industries and Mines Commission Chairman

Engineer Seyyed Hoseyn Hashemi, deputy from Mianeh and chairman of the Majles Industries and Mines Commission, views the process of privatization in the country as follows:

Article 44 of the Constitution specifies that the nation's economy is based on the government, private, and cooperative sectors, and the industries that must be under government control are fully explained. He adds: His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) and His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the revolution, emphasized that work must be transferred to the public. It was on the basis of the above principle and the policies approved in the government's First Five-Year Development Plan that the transfer to the private sector of companies under government control began.

He noted that although these transfers have proceeded quite slowly, currently with the emphasis and persistence of the Majles and especially the Industries and Mines commission, these transfers are proceeding better and more rapidly than before. He added: I believe that all the consumer industries the government controls must be transferred entirely to the non-government sector, and that many intermediate industries can also be transferred easily to the private sector.

Engineer Hashemi then discussed the parent and base industries. He said: In transferring these kinds of industries various aspects must be kept in mind, and in this regard the time and the country's circumstances are very important. This must not be done with that much haste, just as the government did not consider it advisable to transfer certain industries under current conditions.

Continuing his remarks, he discussed some of these industries. With regard to transferring the oil industries, he said: Concerning the oil industries, I do not consider it at all advisable to transfer the oil and the oil wells themselves, since they have been nationalized. With regard to the products made from oil, however, there

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are many areas where with specific policies they can be transferred to the private sector.

He mentioned the fact that there are more than several tens of thousands of refined oil products. He said: Despite this, numerous cases can be found that are easily transferable to the private sector. Of course the means and special support for their investment must not be forgotten. He mentioned some examples in this regard: For example the LAB Factory and DMT, who procure raw materials for the polyacrylic industries and whose capital investment was done outside the Ministry of Oil system, will be transferable to the private sector easily in the future. In this regard he also discussed the oil refining industries.

Elsewhere in his talk the chairman of the Majles Industries and Mines Commission discussed the reasons for the slow progress making the transfers. He said: The first reason is the fact that the policies and the transfer procedures weren't clear. It was not until the month of Esfand 1371 [20 February-19 March 1993] that the Transfer Secretariat was formed at the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs. He gave as another reason the lack of profitability of the transferable units. He said: The producing units themselves had to attain the necessary profitability to be salable on the stock market, and this clearly takes time.

Engineer Hashemi said the educational problem is another of the obstacles to rapid transfer. He said: In this regard both the government and other officials must use educational methods to explain to the people the need for the transfers so they can create the conditions to direct the loose capital in the intermediate sector and in false employment towards production for the nation's interest.

He said that providing means for the transfers will be an effective factor in expediting them, adding: If this happens, those wishing to buy government units will do so with greater enthusiasm. He said the efforts the Majles made in approving the Law on Transferring Government Shares and Shares Belonging to the Government to Those Who Have Sacrificed and Workers was very basic to the task of expediting the transfers.

Privatization in Second Five-Year Plan's Overall Policies

Privatization is one of the main areas of focus in the overall policies of the government's Second Five-Year Development Plan. In view of this, it is better if we become more familiar with the privatization issue by looking at this Five-Year Plan. One of the goals stated in the government's Second Five-Year Development Plan, in continuation of the First Five-Year Plan, is to make efforts to complete the policies of transferring some government institutions and foundations to the private sector.

In this regard the plan says: On the one hand these transfers will lead to transferring some ineffective government activities to the private sector, and on the other hand it follows the principle of increasing the efficiency and economic ability of the producing foundations. For this purpose it is necessary in the process of privatization to keep in mind the following considerations:

- Continuing privatization through continued reform of the monetary system and the market in order to draw domestic capital into the production cycle with the goal of increasing and elevating efficiency in the various economic sectors.

- Encouraging and developing the domestic capital market to facilitate privatization by selling their shares among the various classes of the people.

- Stimulating privatization by selling shares to the people and the workers at units and also through block sales to buyers, to reduce government involvement in minor decisions and concentrating its decisions in important activities having to do with national security.

- Encouraging privatization to improve goods and services with better quality for domestic and foreign consumers, and also to create revenue for the government and reduce its expenses.

- Since privatization is complex and time-consuming, its continuation requires time, consideration, comprehensive study of buyers and the creation of an entirely reliable atmosphere, in such a way that privatization will not only be able to remove some of the government's financial burden, but will also serve the goal of increased efficiency and production. This is because the point of privatization is not simply to eliminate responsibility for units owned.

- Pricing of transferable units must be done in such a way that it will facilitate production and distribution after the transfer.

- It is necessary that the crippling laws for private owners be eliminated so they can continue their activities under normal circumstances.

- Since privatization and the transfer of government units to the private sector will subject the economy to a passing period of numerous difficulties, and also since the dominance of the market mechanism over the economy intensifies inflation, it is necessary during this pass-

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ing period to implement programs that support society's vulnerable classes in the face of these problems.

Pakistan

Editorial Urges Mediatory Role in U.S.-Iran Row

BK0505142395 Lahore JANG in Urdu 5 May 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Iran-U.S. Wrangling — What Should We Do?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although a formal declaration of Pakistan's official stance has yet to be made in the wake of the recent U.S. decision to impose tough trade sanctions against Iran, according to a report emanating from Islamabad, reliable Foreign Ministry sources say Pakistan's stance will be similar to that of the European allies. Citing these sources, the report adds that Pakistan will continue to make efforts to adopt a position that will enable it to play a mediatory role between Washington and Iran at the appropriate time.

As implied above, no concrete opinion can be given on this topic until after the Pakistani Government makes a formal announcement of its official stance. Of course, keeping in mind the strong historical, cultural, and religious ties between Pakistan and Iran, Pakistan's policymakers can be expected to formulate a policy using their superb statesmanship, farsightedness, and sense of responsibility. Forging unique and close relationships with brotherly Muslim countries is one of the basic principles of Pakistan's foreign policy, and by the grace of God we have been implementing this policy with great elegance since Pakistan's formation.

Along with Iran, we are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Economic Cooperation Organization. Prior to this, Iran and Pakistan were members of the Regional Cooperation for Development. Similarly, Pakistan also maintains very close relations with the United States. The two countries have cooperated closely with each other in the trade, economic, and defense sectors. Moreover, during the long years of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the three countries — Pakistan, the United States, and Iran — worked toward the common objective of liberating Afghanistan from Soviet domination. Thus, it would not be out of place to say that Pakistan is the only country in the world that maintains close ties with both Iran and the United States. If the situation warrants, Pakistan will utilize this special position to improve relations between the United States and Iran to any level.

The reaction of the Iranian leaders to the U.S. President's announcement on the tightening of sanctions against Iran is quite natural. The United States should make some appropriate changes in its practice of imposing its will on other countries like this. This point is also substantiated by the reaction of U.S. allies — the European countries and Japan — on this issue. In their dealings with developing countries, major powers should not abandon restraint and forbearance. Considering the reaction of Europe and Japan, there is great scope for the United States to relax its tough stance against Iran. It can be expected that the U.S. Government will not fail to fulfill its global responsibility of easing tension and insecurity in the Gulf region and surrounding areas.

Similarly, we expect our policymakers to demonstrate their skill in fulfilling their responsibility, which has been placed on Pakistan's shoulders by circumstances, in the most appropriate manner. There is no doubt that following the Islamic revolution, Iran succeeded in striking deals with important regional powers like China, India, and Russia on certain important issues in the fields of trade, economics, and defense. Iran's influence with certain Central Asian states has also increased. The atmosphere of distrust with the United States and other Western powers, however, has worsened Iran's hardships and by extension those of other countries in the region. The entire Gulf region in particular faces constant tension and instability because of this.

Of course, like other countries in the world, Iran and the United States should make serious efforts to normalize their relations. The modalities and basic elements can be formulated through a mutual friend like Pakistan. For the sake of the entire region's progress, we expect the leaders of the United States and Iran to act in a responsible way and not in any way evade their obligation to reduce their differences for a better and more peaceful tomorrow.

Government Condemns Indian Actions at Kashmir Shrine

BK1105082995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has condemned the desecration and destruction of the shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Noorani and the adjacent mosque in Charar Sharif by the Indian troops. In an official statement issued in Islamabad today, Pakistan expressed its profound shock and outrage over the destruction of the shrine. The statement says the Pakistan Government had repeatedly expressed its concern and alarm at the siege of shrine and asked India to respect the religious rites of the Kashmiri Muslims by withdrawing its troops from the vicinity of the shrine. It regretted that these appeals fell on deaf ears of the Indians. Similarly, an appeal by the OIC [Organization of Islamic Countries] secretary general was also spurned by India. The statement

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further says the destruction of the shrine demonstrates once again India's total disregard for the sensibilities of Muslims and contempt for civilized norms. The Pakistan Government called upon India to end repression in occupied Kashmir, withdraw its huge army from there, cease its acts of oppression, and allow the Kashmiris the right to determine their future as pledged to them by the United Nations.

Sri Lanka

Rebels Overrun Police Post; Air Force Retaliates

BK1005122395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 10 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 10 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas overran a police post in north-central Sri Lanka, killing 16 people, and the military retaliated with aerial strikes against suspected rebel targets Wednesday [10 May], officials said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) mounted the pre-dawn assault on the Kele Puliyankulama police post in Anuradhapura district adding to a spate of reverses suffered by security forces, officials said.

"They kept on firing for about half an hour. Six constables escaped with injuries," a police official said. He said the attackers had removed weapons and ammunition from the victims before escaping after burning the police post.

Those killed included a sub-inspector, 11 constables, three paramilitary home guards and the wife of a police officer. Six constables wounded in the attack were admitted to two hospitals in the region.

Within hours of the attack, air force jets intercepted a build up of rebel forces outside the strategic Pooneryn military camp located on the southwestern flank of the northern Jaffna peninsula, a military spokesman here said.

"The army had seen certain things south of Pooneryn and fixed wing supersonic planes bombed those areas today," spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said, without elaborating.

He said similar bombings were carried out Tuesday on the southern flank of the Elephant Pass camp, located at the entrance to the LTTE-dominated peninsula.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's office said in a statement that the air strikes were "being carried out in a large scale" and that further aerial attacks were planned.

The air action came despite the LTTE using surface-to-air missiles to down two transport planes over Jaffna late last month, killing all 97 people aboard.

Wednesday's LTTE attack against the police raised to 210 the number of troopers killed after the rebels pulled out of a three-month-old truce and peace talks with the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga on April 19.

Since then, the LTTE has blasted two navy gunboats, decimated two army camps and ambushed several police and army patrols in the island's east in addition to shooting down the two planes.

"To lose one or two is understandable, but to go on taking losses like this is a serious matter," an Asian diplomat here said.

"It is also surprising that there is no clear cut statement from the government on the situation. One wonders if the government is suffering from shell shock. I don't know for how long they can continue like this."

Two days earlier, the LTTE ambushed a platoon of police Special Task Force (STF) commandos in the eastern Ampara district, inflicting the largest loss from a single incident on the elite fighting force by killing 19 troopers.

A string of camps in and around Jaffna face a serious challenge after the rebels knocked out the air bridge of the military with the use of surface-to-air missiles.

Although located within the Sinhala-majority Anuradhapura district, the overrun police post is closer to the northern Vavuniya district which is the de-facto frontier of a separate state the LTTE is fighting for.

Nearly 10 years ago, the LTTE carried out a massacre of more than 100 pilgrims near a tree considered sacred by Buddhists, the Sri Maha Bodhi, at the ancient city of Anuradhapura.

Editorial Urges Continuing on 'Path of Peace'

BK0905152595 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 3 May 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Peace Should Not Slip Away"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The trend of peace has deviated from its course. Two Avro planes have been shot down in the northern province. Certain incidents have paved the way for the revival of unrest and war in the country.

About 180 armed forces personnel have been killed in the two weeks since the escalation of hostilities. All peace-loving forces have emphatically stated their dismay that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] have totally "fractured" the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict and have suddenly gone on the warpath. The government, for its

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part, has not made its peace plans clear and has not completely lifted the economic embargo.

The peace talks that have been going on for six months have not brought the two sides closer. Contrarily, mutual acrimony and contradictions have surfaced at various levels. The People's Alliance government is facing direct and indirect challenges in approaching the festering ethnic conflict, which had been vitiated by the dubious policies of political parties for quite some time.

The lack of explanations for the basic and immediate causes of the long gap in making and implementing decisions gave rise to suspicions.

The nonimplementation of many steps to normalize the daily lives of the people quickly led to the setting of a "deadline." In an interview with the BBC, LTTE leader Prabhakaran explained the LTTE's view that if the president had the will she would have removed all restrictions within 24 hours.

In her interview with the Rupavahini television network, President Chandrika Kumaratunga indirectly explained the hurdles facing the peace process, the government's position, and the situation hampering any quick action. The two interviews showed the people the differences in perception of the two sides as well as the gravity of the problem.

President Chandrika has said her resolute and final objective is to restore peace in the country by finding a political solution to the problems of the Tamils. LTTE leader Prabhakaran said: Our door is open to peace negotiations even today; we have not lost faith. If the government makes a good decision and comes forward to meet our demands, we will call off the war and return to the path of peace. These two statements reaffirm the faith of the two sides in the peace process.

The cease-fire violations, caused by snags in implementing the government's pledges, are said to be the cause of the revival of war in the country. It is a good sign that the two sides have faith in the basic principle that at any cost, a lasting solution should be found to the problems that exist today through peaceful negotiations.

All of a sudden, campaigns are emerging in various quarters to create mistrust among the people. Some political forces are trying to divert the people's attention from their desire for a durable and peaceful solution to the ethnic problem and tranquility in the country. This should not be allowed.

Slogans and campaigns intended to create a war frenzy should not be allowed to resurface. All peace-loving forces should adopt the principle that President Chandrika has insisted on from the very beginning: Even if there is a setback, it should not lead to war, but eventually to peace.

The United National Party has been continuously stating its support for the government's peace efforts. During May Day rallies, expressing their determination not to allow the war to continue, the left parties pledged their support for the government's peace efforts.

In the meantime, through peace rallies, democratic forces have stressed the need to create goodwill toward Tamils among the Sinhalese people and to continue the peace efforts. These democratic forces have stepped up their efforts to achieve this objective. These are good signs; they are gratifying.

We would like to state emphatically that the LTTE should not allow President Chandrika to falter in the step she has taken to avert the resumption of war and make the voice of peace heard.

The two sides should respect the feelings of the people and should not neglect their aspiration to march along the path of peace.

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